

Vatican names envoy to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Vatican has named Monsignor Giuseppe Lazarotto as ambassador of the Holy See in Jordan in implementation of a bilateral agreement announced last March for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two sides. Monsignor Lazarotto, 52, will also serve as the Holy See's ambassador to Iraq, the Agence France Presse said. The Italian-born Lazarotto earlier served as the Vatican's envoy to Zambia, Belgium and Cuba. The appointment of the ambassador came in the wake of a visit earlier this month to Jordan by Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Luis Tauran, who was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein. The envoy also held meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other Jordanian government leaders to discuss bilateral relations, the Middle East and the status of Jerusalem.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى.

Volume 18 Number 5670

AMMAN MONDAY, JULY 25, 1994, SAFAR 16, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King meets Rabin in White House today

'Washington Declaration' to end state of belligerency

From George Hawatmeh in Washington

IN A historic move calculated to serve Jordan's twin strategic interests of achieving Middle East peace and asserting the Kingdom's indisputable role in shaping a new regional order, His Majesty King Hussein will today meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House.

The summit, which has been described by all sides as historic and crucial to establishing comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, is expected to produce a document announcing the end of belligerency between Jordan and Israel and agreements to work jointly on economic development in the future.

Senior Jordanian officials accompanying the King in Washington would not reveal the contents of the "Washington Declaration," but Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali says that it will make a significant contribution to the elements included in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda signed here on Sept. 14 last year.

But important as that document may be, the real issue for Jordan is how much of a political change the summit meeting will produce.

"What is happening now is an end to the era of uncertainty that we have witnessed for too long," says Adnan Abu Odeh, Jordan's representative at the U.N. "For Jordan, the new era should bring with it a gained momentum that could not have come in the no-war, no-peace situation of the old times. In fact, I would go as far as saying that these latest political developments are tantamount to a rebirth of the Jordanian state: or a second declaration of independence at least."

The officials see the signing of the non-belligerency accord not as a major concession to the Israelis, although it might have been demanded by the Americans and Israel, but as a two-sided tool that would help the two countries lay a fertile ground for peace.

"U.N. Resolution 242 calls

for the end of belligerency, and tomorrow's declaration will entail part of the implementation of that resolution," Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Fayed Tarawneh says. "There is as much interest for Jordan in that declaration as for Israel or anybody else."

"The end of belligerency is not equivalent to the end of the state of war," Mr. Abu Odeh says. "What the declaration means, in effect, is that Jordan and Israel now agree that they will resort to military means to resolve their conflicts and disputes, which is also in the Kingdom's best interest."

Sources close to the Israeli delegation quoted Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, as saying non-belligerency was not enough for the Israelis or the U.S. Congress (to agree to reduce Jordan's foreign debt and extend military support). The Jordanian side, however, dismissed such talk as aimed at putting pressure on Jordan to sign a peace treaty right away.

"What the Israelis are doing, by employing such tactics, is what we've always been used to since negotiations started. Anything beyond non-belligerency would require a peace treaty, and we're nowhere close to doing that," a senior official says.

"As far as the U.S. Congress is concerned, it is true that we do not have iron-clad guarantees on anything. But we have the president's and his administration's word that a request (to scrap Jordan's debts and supply the Jordanian army with weapons) before Aug. 1 (one) and this is enough for now," the official maintains.

For their part, the Americans are comfortable with the feeling that tomorrow's meeting at the White House is a solid step towards peace, although it was not immediately clear what position the administration was taking on Israeli demands to go beyond non-belligerency.

An envoy, however, was shuttling among the three parties until late afternoon yesterday, trying to bridge the gaps between the Jordanian and Israelis.

U.S. officials describe the declaration as "significant" and "a fairly detailed road-map of their future normalization of relations that includes some reference to an end to the belligerency."

U.S. officials have made no secret that although Israel and Jordan worked the declaration out bilaterally, it was done at the encouragement of the United States which felt Monday's summit should be "more than significant symbolically. It should be substantively significant as well."

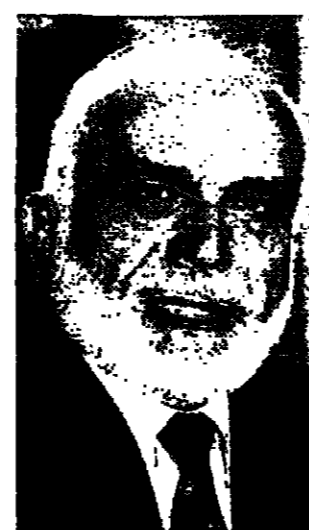
Writing in Sunday's Washington Post, Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser to President Clinton, said Monday's "historic meeting will be further testimony that a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of the Middle East is within our grasp."

"In the Middle East, as in the rest of the post-cold war, two futures diverge," Mr. Lake wrote.

"One track, that of extremism, repression and hate led this past week to Buenos Aires, where a terrorist bomb killed dozens of members of Jewish aid and community organizations. The other track, leading to a future built on dialogue, moderation and democracy, will pass tomorrow through the White House, where Jordan's King Hussein will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin."

In his article, the National Security Adviser dwelled on the role being played by the Americans in bridging the remaining gap between Syria and Israel and stressed the need for achieving comprehensive peace. But the question that was being asked here yesterday was whether the Syrian ambassador would be attending the ceremony accompanying the White House meeting.

Jordanian diplomatic sources told the Jordan Times, however, that the Syrian envoy, along with his Lebanese counterpart, were still in Damascus and Beirut respectively, where they went to follow up on Warren Christopher's recent visit there.



Meeting expected to set Jordan's role in region

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The historical meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington today will not only signal the end of the state of belligerency between the two countries but is expected to determine where the Kingdom will fit in what analysts describe as the new regional order.

Cabinet sources told the Jordan Times Sunday that Jordan had received a letter of assurances from the U.S. administration over its intended economic and military aid to the Kingdom, signed by President Bill Clinton with the knowledge and approval of the U.S. Congress.

"President Bill Clinton

signed the letter of assurance to Jordan in the presence of representatives of Congress," a source told the Jordan Times.

Most officials and diplomats, contacted by the Jordan Times since President Clinton announced that King Hussein and Mr. Rabin had accepted their invitation to meet at the White House on July 25, said they believed the King will at least make an oral declaration of non-belligerency with Israel.

While no one expected the King to sign a formal peace treaty or even a formal declaration of non-belligerency, most agree that the announcement even though only verbal, will serve as another "confidence-building" measure that would emphasise the Kingdom's

commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Kingdom has already taken the lead in this regard by allowing bilateral negotiations with Israel to move into the region and by hosting a trilateral meeting that saw the first ever Israeli cabinet minister on Jordanian soil.

In both the bilaterals at Wadi Araba and the trilateral at the Dead Sea Jordan pledged a full commitment to resolving all outstanding conflicts with Israel, including the issues of territory, boundaries and water sharing, as well as economic cooperation with Israel. The schedule of his majesty, which will include a working lunch with the Israeli premier and U.S.

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'Jordan to grant Israel flyover rights'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli officials said Sunday that Jordan has agreed to allow Israeli passenger flights over its airspace, a measure Israel is likely to reciprocate. "Jordan agrees to grant Israel permission to use its airspace for civilian flights to India and the Far East," said Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar in a statement. The announcement came on the eve of the historic Washington summit between King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Transport ministry spokesman Eli Danon received the Jordanian decision Sunday. It was not clear when the permission would take effect. In Amman, Ahmad Juweiber, head of Jordan's Civil Aviation Authority, denied the report, however. Jordanians and Israeli officials meeting last week in peace talks agreed to work towards civil aviation cooperation. They said an agreement would be reached by October. Jordan is keen on setting permission to fly over air space controlled by Israel to shorten flight times to Europe. Mr. Kessar's statement said Israel would likely allow Royal Jordanian airlines to fly over a northern corridor.

Regent says 1994 will herald peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday voiced hope that 1994 will be the year that heralds peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the American Cable News Network (CNN) television broadcast Sunday evening on Jordan Television, the Regent also said U.S. aid to Jordan was in the broad context of the need to maintain stability in the region rather than a bilateral deal.

Following are excerpts from the interview:

Question: Your Highness, could you tell me — there has been a lot of movement of late in the diplomatic front in the peace process. Is this the final stretch on the road to peace?

Answer: I think it is certainly the structured, systematic, hopefully, process. We have spoken a lot of "process," but now we are speaking of the ground of a process that includes specifically water, environment, related issues on boundaries. But I think yes, in that sense I have always said that '94 is the year of the threshold of peace.

Q: Do you think the Jordanian people have psychologically adjusted themselves? Are they now ready to see your brother meeting publicly in Washington with (Israeli) Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin?

A: I think that, as His Majesty has mentioned, there has been an acceptance

of the necessity of such a meeting. As the man in the street will tell you it is not the first meeting between an Arab leader and the Israeli leadership.

Q: How does one guide one's people? How does one guide their understanding of an issue or their opinions? How do they learn to come to see Israelis as potentially good neighbours one day?

A: The Normandy celebrations or commemorations were held. We recall that German participation was not evident. I would imagine then that next year when (next D-day) victory in Japan is held with Japanese participation not to be evident. And we ask ourselves sometimes the question, why is our Western interlocutor is so keen to see us appearing to express friendship towards each other when obviously both Israelis and Arabs, Israelis and Jordanians, have lost and sacrificed a great deal over decades. So I think that the psychological healing process is a long-term process.

Q: There is a perception that since the Gulf war, Jordan has been able to some extent to communicate its view of the world, its view of regional politics to the White House, to the State Department, but the Congress remains bitter about Jordan's sitting on the fence during the Gulf war. I want to ask you about your observations on how

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Summit caps a week of accelerated events

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein meets Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the White House today, marking a dramatic turn in the 33-month-old Middle East peace process and capping a week of accelerated moves in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations.

The summit, hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton, is not expected to include a signing of any peace agreement, but signals the beginning of an end to 46 years of conflict between Jordan and Israel after the two sides negotiate a settlement to border and water disputes.

Jordanian officials say that the King and Mr. Rabin, who are also scheduled to address the U.S. legislature on Tuesday, will issue a joint statement declaring an end to the state of "belligerency" between the Kingdom and

Israel. They will also endorse a U.S. drafted master plan finalised by negotiators for developing the Jordan Rift Valley.

The King and Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and senior officials as well as a large delegation including journalists, arrived in Washington early Saturday.

Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, also accompanied by their wives, arrived Monday morning.

On his departure to Washington, Mr. Peres said he expected Jordan and Israel to sign a peace agreement in a few months time. But Jordanian officials have said that a peace accord would follow only after the border and water disputes are settled with concrete point-by-point agreements and that full peace between Jordan and Israel could come only as part of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Asked on board the plane taking the two Israeli leaders to Washington when he expected Israel and Jordan to sign a peace treaty, Mr. Peres replied: "I think it is a matter of a few months."

Mr. Peres, who last Wednesday became the first Israeli leader to visit Jordan publicly, said: "I do not want to commit to an exact date but the process is on its way and it will be very difficult to delay it."

Jordan and Israel on Tuesday ended two days of negotiations on borders, water sharing and security along their common ceasefire line, the first such discussions held in the region.

Israel and Jordan also made a real breakthrough in their bilateral talks when Israel recognised for the first time publicly Jordan's rights to one of the region's most precious commodities — water.

The King's visit to the United States aims at helping Jordan regain its occupied territories and sovereignty over Jerusalem, demarcate boundaries, restore Jordan's waters requests and solve the refugees and displaced persons' problem.

Deputy Ibrahim Shihdeh said the king's visit to the

U.S. takes place in the context of Jordan's reaffirmation of its principled stands, its belief in the Arab unity, the importance of collective Arab action and harmony between the performance of the Arab parties involved.

Deputy Hammad Abu Jamous said Jordan could have restored its rights since 1967 and 1977 but it preferred to adhere to collective Arab action and the quest for a comprehensive solution.

However, he added, it had become apparent Jordan was the only country to cling to the firm principles.

Mr. Abu Jamous said the King's U.S. visit "derives extreme importance since he enjoys the support and backing of his own people and international legitimacy

which stresses Jordan's national rights to boundaries, water, environment, security."

Deputy Abdul Maguid Al Azzam said the King's visit to the U.S. aims at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and ending the no-war and no-peace state which has exhausted the region's economic powers.

Secretary-General of the Progress and Justice Party Ali Farid Al Sa'd said: "The battle for peace requires the mobilisation of efforts of all officials under the Hashemite leadership to discuss details of the agenda for peace."

Mujhem Khreisha, secretary general of the Jordanian

(Continued on page 7)

Military school ordered to admit women

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A military academy was ordered to admit the first woman to its cadet ranks, ending a ban that has lasted more than 150 years of an all-male policy. Judge West Houck's decision was to admit Shannon Faulkner, a 23-year-old from South Carolina, who women have previously been allowed to attend as visiting students. Faulkner had filed a sex-discrimination suit against Citadel, which had accepted her application mistakenly for a male student and rejected her when discovering the error. The Citadel threatened to make Faulkner follow all the academy codes strictly, including shaving her head, before admitting her. Faulkner followed up by plans to accommodate more women to be completed by 1995.

S. African siamese twin's heart stops for hour

PRETORIA (AP) — If the heart of a South African siamese twin, separated after a week ago, stops beating for an hour but is successfully restarted, he will be the first to have his heart stopped for an hour and restarted. The twin, who is 11 years old, was born with a heart defect. His heart stopped beating for an hour but was successfully restarted. The twin, who is 11 years old, was born with a heart defect. His heart stopped beating for an hour but was successfully restarted.

Mubarak meets Assad to nudge Israel-Syria talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Damascus on Sunday for several hours of talks with President Hafez Al Assad to mediate stalled peace talks between Syria and Israel.

The first meeting was attended by members of Mr. Mubarak's delegation and senior Assad aides. Syria's prime minister and foreign minister, while the second round was closed, according to the president's spokesman.

The two sides discussed regional and bilateral subjects and the Arab-Israeli peace process during their discussions, said spokesman Ibrahim Kourieh.

Mr. Mubarak left after nightfall and was seen off at the airport by Mr. Assad and other Syrian officials.

Mr. Mubarak's trip followed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit Friday to Damascus on the last leg of a Middle East tour partly aimed at reviving the Syrian-Israeli dialogue after a five-month hiatus.

Mr. Christopher returned to Washington without any agreement between Israel and Syria to resume negotiations over the Golan Heights and terms of peace treaty.

Egypt has been mediating in negotiations between the Jewish state and other Arab states as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Deputies, activists back peace move

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court on Sunday received cables of support from representatives of the various sectors addressed to His Majesty King Hussein and reaffirming support for King Hussein's efforts to defend Jordan's higher interests, achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace and ensure Jordan's sovereignty over its territories and waters.

Secretary General of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU) Khalid Shreim told Petra:

"I have sense that both Prime Minister Rabin and President Assad have a determination to go ahead here ... I think there's the prospect of some progress there," he said.

"Turning Jordan into a strong state and a homeland for all Arabs, ensuring national unity and enhancing the Jordanian institutions' capability to cope with the latest developments and changes are among the major preoccupations of trade unions," he said.

Deputy Hani Hijazin described King Hussein's vision of the future as clear and comprehensive.

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For Palestinians, little to do in labour ministry

GAZA CITY (AP) — Outside the bare offices of the Palestinian authority's labour ministry, hundreds of workers jostled on Saturday for a peek at the list of available jobs — in Israel.

"Anyone with a pass to Israel is guaranteed of entering paradise," said 28-year-old mechanic Sufian Ghanem, elated after learning that as of Sunday he will be allowed to work in a construction site in the coastal Israeli town of Ashdod.

A day earlier Israel lifted a weekend closure of the strip, and had sent 153 new permits for workers whose access to Israel has been approved.

The ministry's reliance on Israel to provide the permits highlighted a bitter irony darkening the early going of the self-rule: The Israeli occupiers may be out of Gaza, but many Palestinians want nothing more than access to jobs in Israel.

The self-rule government is mainly a conduit in this process, and it has otherwise posted little economic good news.

Construction worker Jalal Dalul was disappointed.

"Every day I come here to check for my name, and every day I return empty-handed," he said, waiting to be registered as unemployed.

With unemployment estimated at 60 per cent among Gaza's 850,000 Palestinians and only some 25,000 allowed into Israel, Mr. Dalul's fate was the more common.

Inside the decrepit offices, officials were left with little to do but let the unemployed workers' registration forms pile up on tables of rotting wood.

With no tax collection system, few development plans and international aid still being held up, unemployment compensation or job placement is a distant dream.

Expectations among Palestinians were raised after the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord by pledges of more than \$2 billion in aid over five years and talk of massive foreign investments in infrastructure.

But little has changed on the ground. Much of the aid

is being held up by the Palestinians inability — or unwillingness — to meet Western donors' strict accounting criteria for how they spend the aid.

"We do not have a prescription in hand to cure the (economic) illness in a day and a night," said Economy Minister Ahmad Qouriea in an interview with the Associated Press. He said the government needed time.

But many of his own officials are losing patience. "It is chaos," said Abdul Qader Ashkar, director of Gaza's labour office. "We have no papers, no computers and no instructions."

"We have wasted more than two months," said Samir Hoteileh, deputy director of PCDAR, the body set up to administer economic aid.

"Our ministers do not know what to do. They have not set up structures for ministries. They made no laws, they collected no taxes," he said.

Frustration among Gazans boiled over last Sunday, when hundreds of workers denied access to Israel protested at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel. In the melee, two Palestinians were killed and dozens of Arabs and Israelis wounded.

Palestinian and Israeli troops at one point exchanged fire, violating a basic tenet of their peace accord. A stunned Israel sealed off the strip for six days — a popular move among Israelis who fear some of the Palestinian workers may carry out attacks inside Israel.

Okay for bank

Israel on Sunday granted Jordan's Gulf Bank permission to operate in the West Bank, officials said Sunday. Bank Chairman Zubair Awartani said the bank would begin operating on Monday.

Mr. Awartani said the bank, whose first branch will be in Nablus, hoped to help the Palestinians build up their economy as their move from Israeli occupation to self-rule.

Only the Gaza Strip and the West Bank's Jericho area have gained autonomy so far.

Algerian group offers to stop killing foreigners

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's most feared Armed Islamic Group has offered to call a halt to the killing of foreigners if the authorities free one of its main leaders, a Yemeni envoy kidnapped by the group said after his release.

Ali Askar, Yemen's ambassador to Algeria, said the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) made the offer to Algeria's military-backed authorities in a message handed to him and another freed diplomat, Omani Ambassador Hailal Al Siyabi, when the kidnappers let them go Friday.

"The letter says precisely that the armed groups are prepared to stop the campaign of assassinating foreigners if the leadership liberates Abdul Hak Layada," Mr. Askar said in an interview with El Watan newspaper published Sunday.

"We have transmitted this message to the Algerian authorities," he added.

Mr. Layada, one of the founders of the GIA, was arrested in Morocco in June 1993 and turned over to Algerian police. He was sentenced to death 15 by one of Algeria's three special courts set up to try suspected Islamic militants.

Mr. Askar said his kidnappers belonged to the GIA, most radical of the armed Islamic groups trying to topple Algeria's military-

backed, secular government. It was the GIA who kidnapped three employees of the French consulate general in Algeria last October and held them for a week.

Algerian security forces said Friday they had "found" the diplomats and two other people kidnapped with them on July 15 in the Islamic stronghold of Khemis Al Kechma, east of Algiers.

But Mr. Askar said the kidnappers had released them voluntarily. "They left us near the Ben Aknoun zoo (in Algiers) and loaned us a vehicle to go home," he told the paper.

The other two kidnapped people were their Moroccan chauffeur and Mohammed Qassem Al Thour, a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party's politburo.

Mr. Askar said the kidnappers, about 10 people, initially mistook them for police when they seized the four near the Hamiz dam at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, a region reputedly under control of armed fundamentalists.

The London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, which interviewed Mr. Askar by telephone, quoted him as saying that their abduction was mostly an accident and unplanned. The extremists were suspicious of seeing a strange car in their neighbourhood and stopped it.

'Saudis helped Iraq develop nuclear arms'

LONDON (AFP) — Saudi Arabia helped the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein to finance the development of nuclear weapons, Britain's Sunday Times reported.

Naming its source as Mohammad Abdullah Al Khilewi, a Saudi diplomat who has reportedly defected and sought asylum in the United States, the paper said Riyadh gave Baghdad financial aid worth \$5 billion under a secret agreement.

In return, the Iraqis agreed to share their nuclear technology with the Saudis. The paper said negotiations to that effect began in 1985, when Iraq was embroiled in a drawn-out war with Iran, and only stopped with the 1991 Gulf war after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The report added that the

Saudis had started up a programme as early as 1975 to build the atomic bomb, opening a secret research centre in 1975 in a military complex near Al Suleiyah.

The paper said it has seen the minutes of secret meetings between military officials from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the desert in 1989, just a year before Iraq marched into Kuwait, proving Riyadh's financing of Baghdad's nuclear programme.

The Sunday Times says the documents show the Saudis provided Iraq with specialised equipment it could not obtain on its own. Mr. Khilewi said last month he had written a letter on May 17 to Crown Prince Abdullah and other ranking Saudi officials to express his opposition to the regime, after unearthing secret docu-

Tehran demands Baghdad explanation

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran has demanded an explanation from Iraq about the cause of an accident which killed the son of a revered Shiite Muslim leader in Iraq, Iranian state radio said Sunday.

The foreign ministry summoned Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, Hekmat Abed Khozeir Al Dulaimi and demanded an explanation concerning the death of Sayyed Mohammad Taghi Al Khoei in a road accident, the radio said.

Khoei, son of the late Iranian-born Ayatollah Abul Qassem Al Khoei, died with his car on a road near the Shiite holy cities of Karbala and Najaf.

The Iranian report said the foreign ministry "demanded punishment of those responsible for the tragic incident."

It said the Iraqi diplomat responded by promising to convey Iran's concern to the Baghdad government.

Tehran Radio said the Foreign Ministry also protested Iraqi authorities' restrictions on bereaved family members attending Khoei's funeral.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Americans reported killed in Aden

ADEN (AP) — Two American men Sunday were reported killed on the outskirts of this war-ravaged city when their vehicle hit a mine left over from a two-month civil war. They would be the first known war-related casualties among foreigners, thousands of whom were evacuated after north-south hostilities broke out on May 4. Military sources in this southern port city that bore the brunt of the victorious northern onslaught said the accident occurred Friday two kilometres outside the suburb of Dar Saad. The sources said the mine had been planted during the conflict by southern troops retreating into their besieged stronghold here, which fell on July 7. They gave no further details.

Kuwait scientist wants research published

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is excessively secretive about Gulf war damage to the environment and should publish studies on this topic in the interests of public health, a Kuwaiti scientist said in remarks published on Sunday. "Unfortunately, research results are not accessible to people living within Kuwait's borders," the English-language Arab Times quoted Youssef Al Sultan, assistant director general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), as saying. "The pollution issue... is the classic example. Three years after the oil well fires and the formation of oil lakes in the desert the institutions concerned have not told the people the complete story of the impact on their lives," Mr. Sultan said.

Israel says Hizbollah 'spy' kidnapped

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Lebanese man snatched by Israeli paratroopers was a pro-Iranian Hizbollah activist who took part in or coordinated attacks on Israel, military sources said Sunday. Qassem Rihan was captured Friday night just north of the "security zone" Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army announced only that Mr. Rihan "assisted Hizbollah in attacks against Israel." The sources said he observed and reported movements of the Israelis and their South Lebanon Army militia, but was considered only a minor operative.

Iran slams West over rebel rallies

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri blasted Western countries on Sunday for allowing an Iranian opposition group to hold demonstrations in their capitals. Mr. Nateq Nuri singled out France, Italy and Britain, but also criticised other Western countries for their "act of support" for the Mujahadeen, the main Iranian armed opposition group. "These so-called defenders of human rights turn a blind eye to the crimes perpetrated by the criminal terrorists and allow them to organise rallies and make speeches," he told parliament. Thousands of Mujahadeen followers marched through Western capitals including Paris Saturday denouncing the Iranian government and demanding a restoration of democracy in Iran.

Iran warns against Pakistan 'ethnic war'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri on Sunday strongly condemned an attack on Shiite Muslims travelling by bus in Pakistan and urged Islamabad to stop the "savagery." Mr. Nateq Nuri warned against an "ethnic war" in Pakistan and called on the authorities to "fight against the religious extremists," in a speech to the Iranian parliament. He was referring to the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), a pro-Saudi Sunni Muslim group based in Pakistan. "This terrorist group weakens the pillars of your government and could risk provoking an ethnic war in Pakistan," he said, addressing Pakistani leaders.

Arafat is home to face mammoth responsibility for people

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

When Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza last month for the first time most Palestinians in the occupied territories saw no more of him than the tip of his checkered black and white kuffiyeh. After 27 years of exile Mr. Arafat the revolutionary, the symbol, had finally come home.

With a hoarse voice and tempered words, the man, who for decades had promised the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and who had worked to evict the Zionists from Palestine, came back and spoke of neither a return of all Palestinians nor an eviction of the Zionists. While most Palestinians the world over have viewed him as their leader for better or for worse, his return highlighted the never-ending Palestinian quest for leadership.

After three decades of

leading the Palestinians through wars and resistance, Mr. Arafat has also built a considerable infrastructure of a government in exile. Schools and hospitals, welfare institutions as well as documentation centres. Most were based in Jordan and Lebanon, but now most are closing down after the PLO suffered a severe financial squeeze crisis following the Gulf war.

Critics, like Palestinian-American scholar Edward Said, say the money was squandered by corrupt aids and Israeli moles inside the PLO. They say that a Palestinian leader is accountable to his people both in exile and at home.

As Mr. Arafat leaves the Palestinians in the diaspora behind to fend for themselves he is faced with facts on the ground the likes which he has never had to face before. He says that ruling Gaza will be "no problem" since he ruled

Lebanon for 10 years. But many Palestinians inside the occupied territories and outside believe otherwise.

Mr. Arafat, they say, will have to earn his leadership title in full or lose it altogether. Respected Palestinian leader from Gaza Haidar Abdul Shafi spoke of him, during a seminar held in Amman last month, simply as Yasser Arafat. In an audience of several hundred only one person referred to Arafat as president.

The title that Mr. Arafat will carry, despite or in spite of the Israeli-PLO agreement or the respects accorded to him by foreign heads of state will ultimately be that of his people will bestow on him.

Legislative elections, say Palestinians in the occupied territories, will decide both their fate and that of Mr. Arafat.

"To us, he is *al rais*, (the president) because we consider our nation to be a state

in Palestine," explained advisor to the Palestinian negotiating committee Huda Imam, who works at the Jerusalem-based Orient House. "He is our leader and the leader of a state is a president or prime minister and thus he is our president," she explained.

"He will be president when we elect him to that post," counters Nasser Abu Eid, a Gazan mechanic, who spent seven years in Israeli jails for resisting occupation. "He is our leader but he must earn his credentials now that he is here — we do not want another Arab leader who just declares himself the chief of his Indians," adds Abu Eid.

Mr. Abu Eid is a Fateh loyalist who says that in the first legislative elections he will vote for Mr. Arafat as president.

"Elections are about more than just a title or form," says Haidar Barghouti, a union activist from Ramallah.

"Elections are about accountability of a leadership to its people. Mr. Arafat will be held accountable for everything, from the government he is appointing to the laws that his government passes."

Mr. Barghouti was one of the first Palestinians to lead an organised strike by hotel employees for higher wages and health care three years ago. His action, that he describes as a "social rebellion," angered Fateh officials in the occupied territories at the time. Like most political activists Mr. Barghouti spent years, both in jail and under house arrest for his activism.

"In Palestine I hope we can be free of oppressive measure of the occupation and the dictatorial ways of the Arab regimes," he says. "Arafat's time," says Mr. Barghouti, "may be ending; he probably won't be able to cope with the degree of pluralism that has developed in Palestinian society under occupation; we

have changed. We resent authority as a concept and this will be the governments greatest problem."

Mr. Barghouti won't be voting for Arafat if given the chance to vote, but he will accept the majority choice and work within the system for change.

"We have worked too hard and suffered too much not to give this a chance. We can't wait for the Israelis to leave so we can rebuild our lives. With or without Arafat, it really makes no difference, independence is the first step to our goals — not the last."

The youth of Gaza and Jericho saw Mr. Arafat's homecoming like that of a "father" who had been exiled during their infancy. "We have been waiting all our lives for this glimpse," shouted a young Jericho man, pushing aside guards during Mr. Arafat's speech at the bus station in Jericho in June.

But it was evident that while many Palestinians have liked the symbol Arafat not all are certain what the leader Arafat can do for them. Hundreds of youths lined up next to Mr. Arafat's residence in Gaza demanding jobs which he cannot yet provide less than two weeks after settling in at the coast city.

The expulsion, upon the request of the Israeli government, of four military commanders that accompanied Mr. Arafat upon his July return to Gaza from Egypt only underlined the fact that he still was not the lord of the land.

While Palestinians in the occupied territories and the diaspora are watching for the signs of leadership, many see little.

"He takes his orders from the Israelis, what self-rule? What president," shouted Um Khalil, an onion seller at the Baqa'a refugee camp outside Amman.

Yemen's friends cause concerns to West

SANAA (R) — Yemen, strapped for cash and seeking aid to recover from its two month civil war, is being wooed by some countries anxious to increase their regional influence, Western diplomats say.

Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Iran have all sent high profile political or humanitarian teams to Sanaa to pledge their support to Yemen in the two weeks since northern Yemeni forces crushed a southern attempt at secession.

"There is a lot of Western concern about some of these visits. They are clearly here as a political gesture," one diplomat said.

Israel says Hizbollah 'spy' kidnapped

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Lebanese man snatched by Israeli paratroopers was a pro-Iranian Hizbollah activist who took part in or coordinated attacks on Israel, military sources said Sunday. Qassem Rihan was captured Friday night just north of the "security zone" Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army announced only that Mr. Rihan "assisted Hizbollah in attacks against Israel." The sources said he observed and reported movements of the Israelis and their South Lebanon Army militia, but was considered only a minor operative.

Iran slams West over rebel rallies

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri blasted Western countries on Sunday for allowing an Iranian opposition group to hold demonstrations in their capitals. Mr. Nateq Nuri singled out France, Italy and Britain, but also criticised other Western countries for their "act of support" for the Mujahadeen, the main Iranian armed opposition group. "These so-called defenders of human rights turn a blind eye to the crimes perpetrated by the criminal terrorists and allow them to organise rallies and make speeches," he told parliament. Thousands of Mujahadeen followers marched through Western capitals including Paris Saturday denouncing the Iranian government and demanding a restoration of democracy in Iran.

Other medical delegations have been sent from Iraq and Libya, and the speaker of Sudan's parliament arrived in Sanaa for talks with Mr. Saleh just days after the civil war ended.

Yemen's immediate Gulf neighbours criticised the crushing by force of the self-declared southern breakaway state. Sanaa in turn accused rich Gulf Arab states of funding the secessionists.

In the wake of victory by government forces, Yemen announced that improving ties with Gulf countries was a top priority.

The Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates have sent delegations to Sanaa this week, but there has been no public reaction from Saudi Arabia, where some of the southern leaders are still taking refuge.

"Unless they change their policy towards Yemen, the Saudis could find themselves surrounded by hostile states — Iraq to the north, Yemen to the south and Sudan to the west," one diplomat said.

"In the long term, it might be better for them to patch up their differences with Sanaa."

The Oman News Agency reported the arrival in Muscat of Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani on Saturday and said he would meet Oman's Sultan Qaboos during his visit, expected to last a few days.

"Yemen is keen to strengthen ties between the two countries and develop them for the better," Yemen Radio quoted Mr. Abdul Ghani as saying before he left Sanaa.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Pif Et Hicule
17:10 Beaumanoir
17:30 Musiques Sans Frontieres
18:30 News in French
18:45 The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nanny
21:10 Can Tropical Forests Be Saved?
22:00 News in English
22:20 G.P.
23:10 Top Cops

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 'Asr
19:44 Maghrib
21:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441
Anglican Church Tel. 630511, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
625328
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625326
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 39
Deserts 17 / 34
Jordan Valley 24 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Jharah 847531
Dr. Youssef Sammour 615148
Dr. Youssef Abdo 604910
Dr. Adrian Zaghloul 898140
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoh pharmacy 625072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoh pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Tarog Hijawi 854445
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 273099
Khalilich pharmacy 95417

EMERGENCIES

Control Centre Food
Civil Defence Department 637111
Civil Defence Immediate 611111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Blood Bank 775121
Fire Brigade 891228
Highway Police 863402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 609131
Hotel Complaints 605880
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-552020

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Husam Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Army, Maria 891611/15
Palestine, Shmeisani 664714
Shmeisani Hospital 609131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 6472718
The Islamic, Abdali 6647277
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bastur, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
IBRA:
Princess Basmah Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532025, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:55 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Rhodes (add) (RJ)
19:20 Bangkok (RJ)
19:30 Sanaa (RJ)
19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
06:45 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Khartoum (SD)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Sanaa (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 Rhodes (add) (RJ)
13:25 Larvac, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 London (RJ)
14:35 Cairo (RJ)
16:45 Moscow (RJ)
18:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Dhahran (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TK)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
22:30 Dubai (EM)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.
Apple 680 / 500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukannar) 650
Cabbage 140 / 80
Carrot 240 / 180
Cauliflower 1300 / 700
Cauliflower 250 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 90 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 200 / 120
Eggplant 500 / 400
Garlic 850 / 550
Grapes 400 / 300
Lemon 600 / 500
Marrow (large) 180 / 100
Marrow (small) 320 / 220
Mushrooms 950 / 750
Okra 500 / 400
Orange 500 / 400
Onion (dry) 240 / 160
Sweet Melon 200 / 150
Pepper (hot) 280 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 200
Potato 430 / 300
Peaches 700 / 600
Tomato 110 / 70
String beans 340 / 240
Watermelon 110 / 60

Yemen's friends cause concern to West

SANAA (UPI) — The United States and other Western nations are concerned about the possibility of a new wave of terrorism from Yemen, a country that has been a haven for Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network.

'Turkey is deeply interested in King's Washington visit'

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Turkish parliamentary delegation, Erdal Inonu, Sunday met with acting Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi and later expressed Turkey's satisfaction with the recent developments in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations.

"We are deeply interested in the current visit to the United States by His Majesty King Hussein and will be looking forward to hearing the King's address to the joint U.S. Congress session on Tuesday dealing with the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Inonu.

The Turkish team discussed with Mr. Hindawi issues related to the democratic process in Jordan, Jordanian-Turkish relations and cooperation in trade, economic, cultural and tourism, as well as the prospect of offering incentives to the Turkish and Jordanian private sectors to encourage them to launch investments in the two countries, added Mr. Inonu.

Mr. Inonu and his delegation, who have just returned from a visit to Iraq, expressed hope that the U.N. embargo on Iraq would be lifted soon.

Mr. Inonu, whose delegation represents various political blocs in Turkey's parliament said he hoped that Jordan would succeed in its endeavours to regain its lost territory and water resources within the framework of a comprehensive peace.



Deputy Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi Sunday discusses regional issues with Erdal Inonu (second from left), head of a visiting Turkish parliamentary delegation, other members of the group and Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Irtemcelik (Petra photo).

The delegation was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday.

The five-member Turkish delegation also met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Sunday to review developments in the peace process and bilateral relations.

Princess Basma reviews efforts for conference on women with secretary general in Sweden

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday, reviewed with the secretary general of the fourth world conference on women, held in Stockholm, Sweden, Gertrude Mongella, Jordan's preparation to finalise two official and unofficial reports on the Kingdom's achievements for women.

The two reports will be submitted to the World Conference on Women which will be held in Beijing September 1995 and to the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) forum, which will be held later this year and next year.

The first conference (on population) will be held in Cairo next month, the second on social development will be held in Copenhagen in March 1994 and the third is the Beijing conference.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali Saturday called on the Jordanian leadership to support the efforts towards the Beijing conference.

The Princess is a member of a United Nations advisory commission on the World Conference on Women, which consists of 12 international figures concerned with women's issues.

Princess Basma is currently attending a roundtable conference on global social changes in Stockholm.

The Princess who headed the working group on human security, called for placing sustainable development high on the agenda of three international conferences to be held later this year and next year.

Princess Basma said she will deliver the official report to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during a press conference to be held on July 31 at the Queen Alia International Airport.

Mrs. Mongella praised Jordan's efforts towards the Beijing conference.

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University, Brigham Young sign academic agreement

AMMAN (JT) — Brigham Young University (BYU) of Provo, Utah in the U.S. and the University of Jordan Sunday signed an agreement of bilateral cooperation in academic, scientific and cultural fields.

Under the agreement, the two universities will work to establish ties of friendship and cooperation in order to promote mutual understanding and possible academic, cultural and personnel exchanges.

According to the agreement, the exchange of personnel could serve many purposes, including teaching, research, and the sharing of relevant expertise.

Exchanges may be from any branch of learning and the duration of each stay at the host institution can range from several days to one academic year, said the agreement which was signed by Brigham Young University President Rex Lee and Jordan University President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

Group visits by BYU students to the University of Jordan campus will take place and will facilitate short and long-term study and research missions undertaken by BYU graduate students in Jordan, said the agreement.

In return, students who are graduates of University of Jordan and wishing to pursue graduate studies at BYU will receive careful consideration for admission, it added.

The two universities expressed added interest in promoting post doctoral fellowships and faculty exchange for short and long durations. They will consider convening conferences and other forms of academic activities.

Importers to pay token fees for Lloyds Register presence

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian importers will pay around JD 1 per every tonne of goods coming to them through the port of Aqaba as the cost of land-based verification of Jordan's adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq, informed sources said Sunday.

Separate tariffs are set for different kinds of cargo depending on the nature of packing, whether containerised or bulk cargo, and key items such as foodstuffs, medicine etc. are exempt from paying the charge, the sources said.

The levy will go to pay for the cost of the presence of Lloyds Register surveyors at Aqaba under an agreement signed here last week between the Ports Corporation and the London-based international organisation.

"It will be an average JD 1 per tonne under a set of tariffs drawn up by the Ports Corporation and the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA) and sent to the government for approval" one source told the Jordan Times.

However, the per-tonne levy will apply only to general cargo while the charge for containerised cargo will be around an average of JD 25 per 20-foot container which normally holds around 18 tonnes, the source added.

"These rates are not final since they have to be approved by the government."

However, the "verification" fees are a far cry from the hundreds of dollars that shipowners charge extra for Jordan-bound cargo to make up for the potential delays caused by the offshore inspections by American warships, \$50 each, 20-foot container, \$1,000 per 40-foot container and \$15 per tonne of loose cargo.

According to the sources, the Ports Corporation will remit the collected levy to a special U.N. escrow account directly under the control of the secretariat, which will then pay Lloyds Register.

"This arrangement will help Jordan establish a firm evidence of its payment, which it could claim from the U.N." through a special Gulf war reparations fund set up by the world body, the source said.

The sources said the U.N. was expected to issue a statement soon endorsing the concept of the land-based verification regime at Aqaba and the Jordan-Lloyds agreement after the Jordanian Cabinet approves it.

"We are anxious to have as much formal background to the arrangement as possible," added another source, explaining that the offshore "interdictions" carried out by U.S. warships since the imposition of sanctions against Iraq in August 1990 did not "actually have a legal status."

But, with the changed situation now, it is essential that the land-based verification regime is formal and endorsed by all parties concerned," added the source. "This will preempt any move in the future to change the arrangement."

Washington, the most ardent advocate of continued sanctions against Iraq, is fully briefed on the various aspects of the Jordan-Lloyds arrangement and was directly or indirectly involved in the negotiations that led to the conclusion of the deal, the source said, adding: "The accord was actually deferred several times pending U.S. approval of its various provisions."

Two or three senior officials from Lloyds Register are expected here Tuesday to "scout the ground and set up the mechanisms for their work," said another source. The surveying firm has already conducted preparatory work at Aqaba and have chalked out the proceedings of verification.

In essence, Lloyds Register representatives will be included in the regular teams that are formed by the Ports Corporation, the Customs Department and the concerned clearing agents as well as health authorities as warranted to inspect goods coming into Jordan as part of the Kingdom's regulations on imports.

Along with the team, the surveyors, who are expected to begin their operations sometime next month, will verify that the goods conform to the relevant invoices, bill of lading and other documents and make their reports to the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

"Beyond this observation, the Lloyds people will have no other role in the context of goods imported to Jordan," said an official, emphasising the world "observation."

"Jordan is under no sanctions and it is free to import whatever it wants," added the official.

Goods coming through Aqaba and destined for Iraq will be treated differently. No Iraq-bound cargo except food and medicine will be allowed to leave the port of Aqaba without proper authorisation from the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

It was not immediately known when Washington would actually call off the warships now patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the sanctions against Iraq. But it is expected that some of the frigates will remain in the area for some time while others might move to the Gulf, closer to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr.

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Qouriea defends

(Continued from page 12)

"Hashabishi," Mr. Qouriea said.

"We will keep to the agreement and if it turns out that some details need looking at we will renegotiate, but we cannot start out by saying the accord is inapplicable."

"It's an accord for a transition period not a declaration of independence," he noted.

The failure of the international community to make good its pledges of aid dominated a meeting Saturday of the two-month-old Palestinian authority, Palestinian sources said.

Nabil Shaath, the minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian cabinet for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, told a news conference the meeting had discussed at length the obstacles to the promised delivery of international aid.

Visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Mr. Arafat here last Thursday he would do his utmost to accelerate the payments.

One of Mr. Christopher's team, Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs Joan Spero, stayed on in Gaza to "work with the Palestinians to set up mechanisms and an agenda for speeding up aid payments," Mr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath also said the question of Jerusalem had figured high on Saturday's agenda.

Authority member Faisal Hussein told a press conference Friday in Arab East Jerusalem that Israel should immediately enter into negotiations on the city's future status.

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The spirit of America through song and dance

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Among the columns of the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, the Brigham Young American Folk Dance ensemble on Saturday and Sunday nights filled the South Theatre with the spirit of American traditional music and dance.

The ensemble's 90-minute showcase at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts included various types of American folk dances such as Western Suite, Appalachian Patchwork, American Nostalgia and Smokey Mountain Clog.

The spirit of the American frontier awakened as Brigham Young University's (BYU) troupe took the audience on a musical journey back in time to the "Old West" and unfolded the history of America through dance.

Dressed in colourful costumes and backed by bluegrass band, the American folk dancers set a furious pace with the fast fiddling and fancy footwork of an Appalachian clog, western hoedown and exhibition square dance.

"To join the dancing group, students must audition," said Rex Lee, president of the university. "We choose few of the many hundreds applying. There are no medium specifications, we judge them by their performance only," he said.

"We have a 200-member club with different levels of teams doing different exercises, and as they get better in performance, they move up. For the summer touring team, we picked six top musicians, and 24 top dancers," said Mr. Lee.

The students need to be versatile, he said, adding that they have to learn how to perform different dances at one time whether American or other ethnic movements.

Some dances tell the history of the dances in America since the early 1900's. The Charleston, swing, tap dancing, the dances of the 60's reflect the big Californian beach style, and dances of the 80's and 90's

are called hip-hop and street dances.

"Clogging is still evolving," Delyne Peay, the artistic director and choreographer told the Jordan Times. The young people have taken an interest in the dance, although it is a traditional folkloric dance. Clogging was first born in the southeastern U.S. "where everyone clogs — father, mother and little kids," said Ms. Peay.

The dance is a combination of English and Indian steps, she said.

"Clogging is a difficult dance, but once you have the know-how, it is a lot of fun," said Amy Coleman, a 21-year-old senior dancer in the troupe.

Explaining the traditions of some dances, Ms. Peay said that the hoedown is a dance done at a barn raising. When a new family comes to town and starts building a house and barn, everyone hurries to help, she said. Women or young girls bring food baskets full of home-made delicacies. After the men finish the barn, they all celebrate.

As for the costumes, they are "as authentic as possible, that is what people really wear," said Ms. Coleman.

"American costumes are very simple," said Ms. Peay. Their wardrobe consists of short dresses, big-full skirts, big-full slip underneath, and colourful calico, she explained. The pioneers wear long dresses, and bloomers underneath, she added.

The dancers attend no formal courses about dancing, but the most frequent rehearsal.

"For this tour, which included Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and finally Jordan, we attended cultural classes.



The Brigham Young University American Folk Dance Ensemble Sunday flaps to the Charleston of the 1920's at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Shakespearean play "The Tempest" at the South Theatre at 20:30.
- ★ Concert by Nas Al Givran group of Morocco at the Artemis Theatre at 21:30.
- ★ Concert by the Oriental Jordan University Folklore Troupe at the Sound and Light Theatre at 21:00.
- ★ "Laila and Wolf" play (Haya Centre) at the Sound and Light Theatre at 19:00.

PLAY

- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "A Black Comedy" by Majd Al Qasas at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

AAUG CONFERENCE

- ★ Conference of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates entitled "The Arab World Preparing for the 21st Century" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Monday's themes: "Arab Economic Security and the Emerging Global Patterns" and "Arab Political Security and New Global Realities."

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Water Sources and Their Effect on Human Habitation in Jordan" by Mr. Ahmad Al Shraydeh at the Friends of Archaeology Centre. at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The World Secret Associations" by Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Masiri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

The Shahin and Abu Zayyad families of Bethany, Palestine mourn the early and sudden death of their beloved nephew and cousin

Ali Ali Abu Rish
in Bethany at age of 46, son of the late Ali Abu Rish and Nafisa Shahin, husband to Hala Erekat and father to Amer, Nasser, Sharouk, Assem, Ahmad and Assad May his soul rest in peace.

Minister urges restoration of ancient wells in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat Sunday inspected wells used during ancient times in the Madaba area for water storage and urged local residents to restore the wells and ancient dams in order to collect rain water during the winter.

Accompanied by Qusai Qteishat, secretary general of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAOJ), the minister examined wells unearthed by a team of archaeologists from Andrews University in the

United States. He was briefed by the excavators at the site on the method used to collect rain water thousands of years ago.

The minister said there is a need for these wells, which are great in number in the Madaba district, to be cleaned and readied to collect the rain water of the coming winter.

Madaba residents can also contribute to solving the water shortage problem in their district and in Jordan at large

by digging wells attached to their homes to collect rain water. He said this water can be used for household and commercial irrigation.

Despite regulations by the municipalities that each home should have its own water well, said the minister, the majority of homeowners prefer to pay a fine for violating the regulations rather than dig the wells, which would save them much trouble during water shortage periods.

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MARKET PRICES

Apples (local) 100 kg 1.20
Bananas (local) 100 kg 1.10
Citrus (local) 100 kg 1.00
Dates (local) 100 kg 1.50
Figs (local) 100 kg 1.20
Grapes (local) 100 kg 1.30
Lemons (local) 100 kg 1.10
Mangoes (local) 100 kg 1.40
Melons (local) 100 kg 1.20
Oranges (local) 100 kg 1.00
Peaches (local) 100 kg 1.30
Pears (local) 100 kg 1.20
Plums (local) 100 kg 1.10
Raspberries (local) 100 kg 1.50
Strawberries (local) 100 kg 1.20
Tangerines (local) 100 kg 1.00
Watermelons (local) 100 kg 1.30

Rwanda refugees start going home, many die in camps

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Rwandan refugees abandoned the hell camps of eastern Zaire in growing numbers on Sunday but of those who stayed, up to 1,500 were dying each day from disease or exhaustion, aid workers and Rwandan officials said.

U.S. military planes were set to make their first air-drops of food into the camps. The three planeloads will be just a drop in a morass of thirst, filth, hunger and disease.

"There are many people on the road. Yesterday more than 10,000 came across," Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Lieutenant Peter Karage told Reuters at the frontier.

On the Zairean side, hundreds of miserable, soiled Hutu refugees were slumped along the road leading up to the border post, closed by Zairean soldiers since Thursday.

The soldiers were still collecting up the tonnes of rifles, bullets, machetes and grenades abandoned by former Rwandan troops when they fled RPF forces 11 days ago along with about a million civilians.

Lt. Karage said most of the refugees, who have been urged by both the new RPF government and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to return, were crossing through the bush.

The UNHCR could not confirm the numbers but for several days aid officials said they had noticed trying to return.

The mainly Tutsi RPF won power in Kigali after a three-month offensive but govern-

ment soldiers and Hutu militiamen massacred an estimated 500,000 people, mostly Tutsi and Hutu government opponents in that time.

At least 2.7 million refugees — more than a third of the population — fled across Rwanda's borders, spurred by broadcasts from the defeated government that said the RPF would launch a campaign of revenge killings.

The UNHCR has told the refugees it is safe to return. No massacres have been reported since the ousted regime fled into Zaire and the new RPF government set up last week has also urged the refugees to come home.

Hutu leaders held responsible for the genocide are now ensconced in Goma tourist hotels after slipping through a French military "safe haven".

"There's going to be a real struggle for the hearts and minds of these people between the old government and the new one," said UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson.

Zaire's Deputy Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo was due to visit the frontier post and aid officials said this could signal a decision to open the border again.

About 45,000 displaced Rwandans have flooded across from the French safe haven in southwest Rwanda back to their homes, French Lieutenant-Colonel Didier Bolelli told reporters.

RPF officer Karage said his forces were keeping people out of the border town of Gisenyi until they burned down the houses in the streets to help avoid bringing a cholera plague home.



An armed Zairean soldier prevents Rwandan refugees from crossing the border with Rwanda in Goma July 23. The French soldiers pledged to clean-up the

grenade-littered main road linking Zaire with Rwanda, as refugees desperate to return home to escape death and disease-ridden camps queued at closed border (AFP photo)

Many of the refugees, starved and exhausted after their stay in the camps and the walk to get to Zaire, are clearly too weak to make the journey home now.

"We're estimating, and this is very rough, that 1,200 to 1,500 are dying a day," Mr. Wilkinson said.

Most are dying of cholera, and workers from Medecins Sans Frontieres (doctors without borders) said the epidemic could bring down 80,000 people with the disease.

"The epidemic is worsening and is far, far out of our

control," MSF Dr. Georges Dallemagne said.

Corpses, wrapped in reed mat bundles or sprawled on the roadside, lay scattered all the way down to the shores of Lake Kivu which is still the source of most refugees' water.

Crowds of people scooped water into jerry cans, washed and swam in the lake. Many had walked 30 km from the black volcanic rock plains where they have been moved by the Zaireans and aid organisations.

The refugees need 30 million litres of drinking water a

day but Mr. Wilkinson said the aid groups were currently able to purify just 150,000 litres.

U.S. Army Major Guy Shields said two C-141 transport planes would land at Goma Airport on Sunday, bringing in the first U.S. water purification gear and forklift trucks to unload cargo.

An airlift of an initial 1,293 tonnes of U.S.-donated rice and some cooking oil will also begin, Maj. Shields said.

Three C-141s will drop food supplies — possibly U.S. combat rations — at an airstrip called Katale just

north of Goma.

If refugees strayed onto the airstrip, the drop would have to be aborted, Maj. Shields said.

Some of the U.N.'s requests — such as an urgent drilling of 60,000 latrines through volcanic rock — have gone unanswered.

"On sanitation there's been absolutely no response at all. We appeal to governments to come up with an offer," Maj. Wilkinson said. "The only thing working efficiently now is the burial of the dead."

Adams demands peace, Sinn Fein begins debate

LETTERKENNY, Ireland (AFP) — Sinn Fein demands a peaceful solution to the Northern Ireland conflict, the movement's leader Sunday told a special congress here called to debate a response to the Anglo-Irish Declaration on the province's future.

In his inaugural address to the long-awaited congress, Gerry Adams, the president of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, asserted: "Republicans want peace. We demand peace."

After seven months of prevarication, the party has promised a "definitive" answer to the key offer contained in the December declaration: to include Sinn Fein in talks on the future of Ulster if the IRA honours a three-month ceasefire and renounces violence.

An answer is not expected before late Sunday evening. Speaking to around 800 party delegates in a hotel at this tourist town in the western Irish county of Donegal, Mr. Adams added: "By the end of today, I am confident that our collective efforts will have significantly contributed to the peace process."

He praised what he called "the positive role" played by the Irish government over Sinn Fein demands for clarification of aspects of the declaration.

As the delegates of the Catholic Republican Party, which wants the British province to join Ireland in the south, convened, a strong police presence deployed outside the town just a few kilometres from the northern Irish border amid fears of an attack by pro-British Protestant paramilitaries.

On Saturday, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds urged Sinn Fein to "seize an historic opportunity for peace" by approving the declaration and ending the sectarian conflict, which has killed more than 3,200 and wounded 37,000 since the British Army stepped in 25 years ago.

But although Mr. Adams insisted Saturday that "we are in the final phase of the conflict," he has tried to stop expectations getting too high, saying Thursday he had not heard of any preparations for an IRA ceasefire.

Republicans have also indicated that although recent Anglo-Irish noises on Ulster have been "encouraging" they are not enough for Sinn Fein to convince the IRA to stop its campaign.

Instead, they want to see London and Dublin adopt a formula which would put flesh on the declaration's principle of "national self-determination of the Irish people."

They also want assurances that the Government of Ireland Act partitioning the country, passed in 1920, will be at the centre of any future talks.

But analysts said the Republicans would be careful not to close any doors Sunday, and there might be more surprise short-term truces such as the one extended this Easter.

Whatever the outcome, the peace process is likely to remain in suspense for the moment. It will be the autumn before London and Dublin try to lure Ulster's political parties around the negotiating table with a follow-up formula.

And IRA violence is not likely to stop right away, even if it continues the recent trend of concentrating on "military" targets such as British Army soldiers, Ulster police and members of Protestant loyalist gangs.

The loyalists, for their part, have issued a statement saying they would welcome an IRA ceasefire "positively"

Two climbers killed in avalanche

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. (AP) — Four climbers started an avalanche when they fell about 215 metres down a snowy glacier on Mount Hood Saturday, a witness said. Two were swept into a crevasse and killed. The four were climbing Elliot glacier at about 2,745 metres on the mountain's north side when the avalanche occurred in mid-afternoon. Rescuers reached them about five hours later, and airlifted two to University Hospital in Portland. The other two were killed, hospital spokeswoman Marilyn Levin said. One of the survivors appeared to be in critical condition, the other's injuries were described as serious. "They were attempting to glissade, basically sliding on their backs, and started way too high," witness Andy Marker told KPTV in Portland. "That's 45 degrees up there, and with the snow conditions, they just out of control, tried to self-arrest, and, uh, it didn't work. They hit the rock band, cart-wheeled over it, hit the snow right above the crevasse, stopped for a couple of seconds, then the avalanche that they had created with their momentum swept two of them into the crevasse."

Mount Hood rises to an elevation of 3,427 metres. In 1986, seven students and two teachers died after they were caught in a blizzard on the mountain. Two others walked through the storm to seek help, and two teenagers survived the three-day ordeal in a hastily dug snow cave.

Flood kills seven in northern Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — A flood swept through a village in northern Vietnam leaving seven people dead or missing, Vietnam News Agency reported Sunday. The flood in the border province of Lai Chau also wiped out 30 houses and injured 24 people in Muong Lay village early Saturday, the report said. Much of northern Vietnam was hit by heavy rains last week that threatened thousands of hectares of rice fields. Floods in the south of the country this month wiped out around 20,000 hectares of crops, and again threatened the rice harvest.

3 dead, 7 missing in Hong Kong landslides

HONG KONG (AFP) — Monsoon rains forced rescuers to abandon their search Sunday for seven people missing after a landslide on a Hong Kong housing estate which has already claimed three victims. The landslide, the result of some of the heaviest rain in Hong Kong this century, occurred in Kennedy town on Hong Kong Island on Saturday. Hong Kong deputy governor Anson Chan, visiting the disaster site Sunday, said: "I think, unfortunately, the chances of finding anybody still alive, buried under the mud, is probably very, very slim, and it's not, at the moment safe to continue the digging." Four public housing blocks standing on the affected slope have been evacuated, with 2,000 residents moving to emergency shelters. Heavy rain since Friday has wreaked havoc in Hong Kong, closing roads and forcing banks and businesses to shut. Flight into and out of Hong Kong airport has been delayed or cancelled. The torrential rain which has also caused widespread flooding and is expected to persist over the next couple of days. Over 100 mm of rain fell in one four-hour period early Sunday.

Elephant runs amok at Danish circus

COPENHAGEN (R) — An hysterical elephant which ran amok at a circus, injuring two people and rampaging through a small town was finally put down by a veterinary surgeon, the national news agency Ritzau reported on Saturday. The 3.5 tonne elephant attacked its trainer in the ring of a circus at Nyborg in central Denmark on Friday night and trampled members of the audience, circus Benneweis said. After crashing out of the big top, the elephant — called Siam — seized a man with his trunk and lifted him into the air before rampaging through Nyborg's harbour area. It said, The elephant eventually returned of its own accord to join its three mates.

At least 40 dead in Indian violence

GUWAHATI, India (R) — At least 40 people were killed when tribal militants attacked a relief camp in India's northeastern Assam state on Sunday, residents said.

With Sunday's killings more than 60 people have died in the ethnic violence this week.

The Assam government on Saturday said 21 people were killed in ethnic clashes in Barpeta district of the state on July 19 and 20. It said the dead included 10 shot by police.

In a renewed spurt of violence early on Sunday armed Bodo militants opened fire at sleeping inmates at Bansbari relief camp, some 160 kms east of the state capital Guwahati.

Residents said some 40 people were killed and over 100 injured in Sunday's clash as the militants fired

indiscriminately after surrounding the camp. The police gave no figure for the number of casualties in the incident.

The wounded were brought to the Guwahati Medical College Hospital in trucks and other vehicles.

No other details were immediately available.

A round-the-clock curfew imposed on Friday to contain the violence remained in force on Sunday. Over 5,000 people fled their villages for relief camps after armed attacks and arson.

There has long been tension between Bangladeshi immigrants and Bodo tribesmen, many of whom support a tribal insurgency aimed at winning a separate state within India.

Bodo militants frequently attack recent immigrants,

claiming they are taking their tribal land. Last October, 60 Muslims were killed and 30,000 made homeless.

But police said the immigrant community in Barpeta arrived many years ago and held legitimate title to their lands.

One senior official said tension between the Muslims and Bodos started rising in Barpeta nine days ago when a police party, returning from investigating the reported murders of two Muslims, was ambushed, apparently by Bodo militants.

Seven policemen were killed in the incident.

Police said the recent violence appeared to have been triggered by Muslims. They said 15 villages, 10 of them belonging to Muslims and five to Bodos, were burned.



Japanese Astronaut Chieki Mukai (right) longest space flight ended with the safe return of its crew of seven humans and thousands of small animals when the shuttle landed on KSC's runway 33 (AFP)

Columbia home after record orbiting

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA hustled thousands of little animals off Columbia on Saturday after the shuttle's smooth sunrise landing concluded America's longest space flight in more than 20 years.

It was the end of the line for the two surviving adult news — dissections were planned by researchers eager to see the anatomical effects of 15 days of weightlessness.

A longer, brighter future awaits the four guppylike Japanese medaka fish. They are headed back to Japan in a few weeks to live out their lives and mate to their hearts' content, under scientific scrutiny, as biologists look for any lingering effects of space flight.

A one-day landing delay caused by offshore storms Friday gave Columbia and its crew of seven the U.S. space shuttle endurance record — 14 days and nearly 18 hours for a trip of 9.82 million kilometres.

The previous record was 14 days, 13 minutes, set by another Columbia crew last

fall.

Japanese astronaut Chieki Mukai became the world's female space-endurance champion. The all-time records of 84 days on NASA's Skylab in 1973-74 and 366 days on Russia's Mir space station in 1987-88 are all held by men. Ms. Mukai, a little weak and wobbly from 15 days of weightlessness, described the trip as "a wonderful memory."

The heart surgeon and first Japanese woman in space was applauded by dozens of Japanese when she walked into a press conference room and again when she left.

"Definitely, this is my best day," Ms. Mukai said, smiling.

"Excellent, excellent job," mission control told Commander Robert Cabana and his crew after Columbia's wheels came to a stop. "Your record of 15 days on orbit for the shuttle has brought us closer to the next giant leap for humankind, when we live permanently in space aboard the international space station."

Besides biological experiments on the news, medaka, six goldfish, 126 jellyfish, 11,200 sea urchins, 180 toad eggs, 500 flies and millions of cells, the mission featured metal melting, radiation monitoring, fluid analyses, plant growth and medical tests on the astronauts themselves.

Scientists want to see how the animals develop and behave in weightlessness so they can better understand how humans might adapt to much longer stays in space, such as on a trip to Mars.

Two of the four adult news carried by Columbia died during the mission. But researchers awaited their arrival with as much anticipation as the live ones, maybe even more, to see what they could learn from their deaths.

More than 200 scientists from around the world participated in the mission. All but one of the 82 experiments were accomplished.

The U.S. space agency's next shuttle mission, an earth-monitoring flight by Endeavour, is scheduled for next month.

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Neo-Nazi skinheads rampage in Buchenwald death camp

ERFURT, Germany (R) — Neo-Nazi skinheads rampaged through the Buchenwald World War II death camp in East Germany, throwing stones at buildings and threatening to burn a supervisor on Sunday.

The rampage late on Saturday night came amid a spate of rightist violence that swept the eastern part of the country over the weekend.

Two of the 22 rightists, who shouted " Sieg Heil!" and gave the stiff-arm Hitler salute as they charged through the former Nazi concentration camp in which 56,000 Jews were murdered during World War II, were initially detained by police.

One was held and the other released. The rest of the neo-Nazi group were allowed to go home pending police investigations, a spokesman said.

German officials recently announced plans to remodel the Buchenwald Museum to reflect post-war Soviet abuses and the 10,000 people who died there after the Nazis were defeated.

About 20,000 of the concentration camp's inmates died making the V2 rocket, Hitler's "wonder weapon," in the Dora underground tunnel network, northwest of Buchenwald.

In Magdeburg, also in East Germany, police detained seven rightist youths on Saturday for singing banned Nazi songs.

Residents had complained after a gang chanting Nazi slogans and singing Nazi songs paraded through the streets.

Meanwhile in Ruhlsdorf near the eastern city of Eberswalde, police were investigating a group of 10 to 15 youths on suspicion of distributing banned Nazi propaganda, a spokesman said on Saturday.

Three Germans were jailed on Friday for up to 3½ years for their role in riots in Magdeburg in May when far-right extremists smashed up a Turkish-owned cafe and hunted down foreigners in one of the worst outbreaks of neo-Nazi violence that has haunted Germany since unification in 1990.

Gastro-enteritis toll passes 400 in Indian state

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 427 people in India's Uttar Pradesh state have been killed by gastro-enteritis in less than a week, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. A committee has been set up to monitor the situation and senior health officials asked to visit the affected areas to help speed up the treatment and implement preventive measures. The news agency said the latest cases were reported from Allahabad, a Hindu holy city at the confluence of the Ganges and Jamuna rivers and nearby Varanasi. Deaths have also been reported in several other districts. "The disease appears to be acquiring epidemic proportions. It has to be checked without delay," the head of the region's health services Dr. K. S. Vershney told Reuters on Friday. Municipal officials said most of the deaths occurred in slums where clean drinking water is in short supply. They said monsoon rains had dislocated sewage systems and fresh water supplies in the cities and flood water had entered open wells in the villages. The incidence of water-borne diseases including stomach ailments such as gastro-enteritis increases during the hot, humid monsoon season in many parts of India.

MOSCOW (AP) — It might seem that Russia has had enough battles and plenty of heroes, villains and fools.

But Russian fans of English fantasy author J.R.R. Tolkien say they're just getting going. They gather by the dozens each week at twilight in a wooded park called Neskuchny Sad, or pleasure gardens, overlooking the Moscow River.

"We have no sources, few books. We're just starting out, like it probably was in America 20 or 30 years ago," said Konstantin Asmolov, a regular at the gatherings. "We need dungeons and

Tolkien- mania arrives in Russia

dragons humanitarian aid," he said, lamenting that the Tolkien-style fantasy game has yet to appear in Russia.

Many of the Tolkien devotees wear capes and daggers, and a handful in their teens and 20s lounge at each other with homemade swords and spears, slipping and sliding in the mud.

Other fans stand around the columns of an 18-century house comparing identities and insights into "The Hobbit," "The Lord of the Rings" and other Tolkien books.

Only occasionally does the real world intrude — the

faraway sound of car horns on Lenin Prospect.

Tolkien's imaginary universe, Middle Earth, inspires such dress-up games in many places, but he is a relatively recent obsession for Russians. The lord of the rings trilogy, published in the West in 1954-55, wasn't published in Russia until 1982.

There are a few groups of "Tolkienists" in Moscow, centred on Moscow State University. Many prefer to be called "Tolkienists," which carries a hint of craziness.

The mostly young, long-haired, bookish group at Neskuchny Sad offers some

theories about why this brand of mythology-based fantasy has struck a chord.

"A lot of people say it's catching on here because life is so hard and people need to escape to a prettier life," said Andrei Kachanov, a lanky 16-year-old. "But for me it's just an interesting and wild hobby."

Asmolov said Russia is going through another time of troubles, a period of anarchy, famine and foreign invasion in the early 17th century.

"In times of troubles, a lot of charlatans appear and there's a desire for magic," he said. "The crowd of dreamers in

the woods is also protesting against the Russian yuppie," said Asmolov, a post-graduate student in ancient warfare. He is an old-timer at the Neskuchny Sad gathering, having attended for about three years.

Two women leaving through a copy of "The Lord of the Rings" weren't interested in theorising.

"I don't know why people come here," said one, who wore a blue cape over her street clothes, an amulet and a gold ribbon around her forehead. "We're not people. We're hobbits."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Peace dividends

JULY 25, 1994, will hopefully usher in a new era for the Middle East that promises peace and prosperity for all its peoples. What His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will accomplish today in Washington is bound to influence the pace of progress on the other tracks of the peace process and to leave its marks on the region for a long time to come. While some would like to see the effort fail, many people in this region want it to succeed and bear fruit. And while the former would not spare any effort or means in their reach to torpedo peace, those who champion it have to put in even greater efforts to make peace happen, hold and progress.

The opponents of peace on both sides of the divide, Arab-Israeli or Muslim-Jew, will have no need to coordinate their efforts, since their aim is one: to bring to a halt the current peace negotiations. The proponents of peace, meanwhile, need more than express their willingness to make peace. They need to forge ahead and to dismantle the many hurdles that were erected during decades of hostility. While the direct participants, the Arabs and Israelis, carry the negotiations further and further ahead, the other partners, the U.S., the Europeans and the world community at large ought to use their political clout and financial muscle to consolidate the process.

The experience of the Palestinian National Authority in the self-rule area with the international donors is a reminder of the importance of changing people's lot on the ground. The incident last week at the crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, that resulted in the death and injury of many, is testimony to the desperation of people, who for years have been yearning for peace and peace dividends.

The U.S., the European Union and Japan have a big stake in peace. It serves both their strategic and commercial interests. The conflicts in Algeria and other parts in the Arab and Muslim World are not about religion, like many might want us to believe, they are about disparity.

Peace will only hold if nurtured and people will only opt for it if it serves their own interests and improve their future prospects.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States, Al Ra'i daily Sunday said that the visit is a clear sign of Jordan's pursuit of efforts to attain a lasting peace in the Middle East. On Tuesday, the King is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress in Washington and he is expected to win lawmakers' support for his drive to attain security and stability for the countries of this region, following his success in winning the endorsement of his efforts by the U.S. administration, said the daily. President Bill Clinton is to be commended not only for supporting King Hussein's efforts but also for giving him the chance to address Congress where U.S. policy is formulated, the paper continued. As for the tripartite summit at the White House, the paper said it is a clear sign that Jordan is sincere in its efforts towards achieving peace that would guarantee a better future for the coming generations. Meeting the requirements of development in this region is a vital element for attaining a lasting and just peace and, said the paper, it remains to be seen if the U.S. Congress will do its part in this process and come to the aid of Jordan and so enhance the growing relations between Jordan and the United States.

HAMADEH FARAANEH, a columnist in Al Dustour, said economic investments in the self-rule areas of Palestine are more beneficial for the Palestinian cause and people than all the statements of political parties put together. Citing a decision by Senator Kamal Al Shaer and his company to invest hundreds of millions in infrastructure projects in Palestinian land, the writer said that economic projects can best enable the Palestinian people to remain in their homes and lands. Citing another example, the writer said that Palestinian businessman Sabeeh Al Masri has now pledged to cover the cost of running the affairs of the Higher Palestine Educational Council. The writer said that this move does prove the inseparable bond between the Jordanian and Palestinian people who said the writer face a common destiny.

Human Rights File

What is in a change of name?

WHAT IS in a change of name for human rights? Plenty, said the International Human Rights Committee (HRCR) charged with the mandate of implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The case arose recently when a certain country refused an application from one of its citizens to change his last name into a Hindu sounding name. The country in question, which happens to have an otherwise impeccable human rights record, reasoned in its rejection of the application that it has the right to regulate name changing, especially when it is motivated by religious or ethnic reasons. While the case has yet to be dealt with and ruled upon, there is already an apparent division of opinion on whether the issue raises only issues under Article 17 of the ICCPR or also under Article 18. Article 17 stipulates that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family or correspondence. Article 18 states that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.... and to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."

So it has been argued that the applicant has two principal bones of contention: one that centres on his right to freedom of religion and the other the right to privacy. When a person changes his faith from religion A to B, in this case to Hinduism, can he or she be denied the right to change his or her name in a manner consistent with his new religion. The complainant in this case changed from Christianity to Hinduism and wanted for religious reasons to have a Hindu name just as a man or woman converted into Islam may want to have Muslim name.

The opposite could be true of course. A Hindu who converts to Christianity may also want his name changed into a Christian name. So what is wrong with that? It appears to me, that irrespective of the religious

connotations of the issue, people should be free to change their names provided it is not done with such frequency that it becomes a nuisance to the state and the family. Likewise, the state has the right to regulate such a right in order to make sure that public order and orderly registration of names are not interfered with or threatened. This case may look simple to the novice in U.N. human rights endeavours, but it was regarded as so complex that the members of the human rights body were split right down in the middle over it. Some found no violation in the rejection of the application for the change of name and others found the opposite correct.

It would be interesting to know how Jordanians would feel about such a seemingly human rights issue. While a poll taking would be impossible in such a situation, readers are invited to voice their opinion on this vexing human rights matter by writing to or calling the writer about their views. Human rights cannot be pursued or analysed or ruled upon in isolation from the people who are, after all, the final arbiters of what is condonable and what is not in terms of human rights. I therefore respectfully depart from the traditional writing about human rights by engaging my audience as well in these writings. My questions on this subject would be simple: Does a person have a right to change his name for religious reasons, for ethnic reasons or for any other reason? If you are interested in this dialogue please write to me.

Another issue that is still being debated within international human rights circles is the call for equal treatment between so-called "legitimate" children and the so-called "illegitimate" ones. In fact, we in the human rights field no longer use these terms since children born out of wedlock constitute a very vulnerable group of children who deserve protection. Needless to say, there is a clear trend in international human

rights law to treat both categories the same and to call for removing all remaining vestiges of negative discrimination between them. Islam is quite progressive on this issue and contrary to public belief a recognised child inherits equally as a "legitimate" child. In this vein, many observers would point out that if there is anybody who is "illegitimate" when it comes to children born out of wedlock it is the parents themselves and not the innocent infant who has no say whatsoever in his or her conception and birth. Again it would be interesting to know how the question in proper perspective and keep in focus the need to protect children in general, including those whose biological parents have not been officially married, then addressing this concern would become reasonable from all points of view.

Most people tend to see human rights from a strictly traditional point of view with special attention being devoted to political rights and democracy. It is amazing how widespread are the issues that fall within the scope of human rights. We in Jordan tend to examine human rights in a very limited perspective, leaving aside family and child abuse, honour crimes, freedom of thought in schools and sexual crimes that go on unrecorded. I have been told that we have a serious problem with incest yet no one has ever dared to bring the subject to the surface. Hopefully, our society will divert its attention and concern from the traditional human rights problems into the ones that are still concealed from public scrutiny. It is too bad that neither the national charter nor the human rights code that the national human rights commission had drafted have even touched upon the other side of human rights. There is a case more pressing now than ever to have a national coordination on human rights for the purpose of placing the Jordanian human rights interest and involvement in proper perspective.



Handshakes, rights and validation within the family

By Rami G. Khouri

THE SUMMIT between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington today is more significant, in political and historical terms, than the Rabin-Arafat handshake last September. The Israeli-PLO dynamic continues the primacy of Israeli power over the Palestinians in Palestine, at least in the foreseeable future; the Israeli-Jordanian talks, on the other hand, may usher in a more balanced and meaningful Arab-Israeli relationship in the wider Middle East.

The Jordan-Israel talks hold out the promise of three goals that have eluded our people for most of the last century: a) Arab acceptance of Israel as an integral, natural part of this region; b) Israeli acceptance of the sovereign territorial, water and other rights of its neighbouring Arab states without subjecting Arab sovereignty to the supremacy of Israeli rights, fears and concerns; and c) a resumption of the prevalent historical reality that has defined this region and these peoples for several thousand years before the modern Arab-Israeli conflict erupted in the 1930s: namely, communal coexistence and practical human cooperation among Jews, Christians and Muslims, according to the ancient rules of ethnic and religious pluralism that have characterised the Middle East since the dawn of human civilisation in the Early Bronze Age some five millennia ago.

The real giveaway of the meaning and hope of the Jordanian-Israeli dynamic now underway is most obvious in the demeanor of the Israelis who stepped on Jordanian territory earlier this week. Their manner was honest and telling; they spoke in a vocabulary of great expectations, talking of peace and reconciliation,

promising cooperation and progress for all. They were slightly awed, rather excited, and full of both disbelief and satisfaction. The Jordanians were more businesslike, uttering the now perfunctory expectations of peace and cooperation, but repeatedly stressing that Israel could live in peace and good neighbourhood only after it met the critical prerequisites of accepting Jordanian and Arab national rights, in terms of borders, security, water shares, the rights of Palestinian refugees, the status of Jerusalem and other issues.

We will see these sentiments expressed again today at the White House in both the body language and diplomatic language of the principal actors. Mr. Rabin will not display the hesitancy that confused his handshake with Yasser Arafat; rather, he will shake King Hussein's hand with vigor and enthusiasm, probably also with a sense of great relief for the Jewish people. His Majesty King Hussein will display none of the wonder or effervescence that characterised Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn. For unlike Mr. Arafat, King Hussein meets Israel not as a junior partner seeking partial rights on a fraction of his ancestral land for an unspecified period of time, but rather as the leading edge of larger, stronger, and more self-confident Arab national culture that has satisfactorily come to terms with the place, size and role of the modern Jewish-Israeli community in its midst.

This summit is historic in superficial terms because it is the first time that leaders of Israel and an adjacent Arab state meet in public. Its real historicity, though, is not to be defined in the mediagenic emotionalism that characterises the American milieu in which it takes place; its real significance is that, following the negotiations in Jordan last

week, it is the most substantive Arab-Islamic indication to the Jewish people to date that they can look forward to reclaiming their rightful place among the wider Semitic family in the Middle East — a Semitic family of indigenous Middle Eastern Christians, Muslims and Jews in which the approximately five million Jews around here make up just over one and a quarter per cent of the approximately four-hundred million people who live in the Arab World and the wider, predominantly Islamic, Middle East.

The symbolism of the Rabin-Arafat handshake was mainly about Palestinian acceptance of the reality of the Israeli state and its contemporary dominance in the relatively small land of Palestine, in return for which Israel recognised the principle of a distinct Palestinian community with certain national flourishes that could one day be transformed to national rights and sovereign statehood. The symbolism of the Hussein-Rabin handshake is mainly about wider Arab-Islamic acceptance of Israel as a full player in the much larger Middle Eastern game of nations. Israelis and Jews may find this interpretation to be a strange delusion, arguing that Israel is a fact and cannot be wished away even if all the Arabs refuse to recognise it. The last several decades, however, betray a more glaring fact — mainly that Israelis and Jews are obsessed not with assuring their own security (for this was assured somewhere in the early 1960s) but with securing their acceptance as a nation-state in the Middle Eastern galaxy of national identities.

It is not enough for Israelis to say and feel that they are part of the Middle East, because in reality they are only part of the Palestinian Mediterranean coastal strip, surviving on their own determination combined

with a lifeline of Western money, military aid and diplomatic patronage. Israel's highest and last national goal today is to be accepted as a natural, indigenous and normal Middle Eastern country. It has finally understood that the price of this acceptance is its own reciprocal and simultaneous acceptance of the national rights and communal reality of the Palestinian people, and the sovereign rights of the adjacent Arab states. The PLO-Israeli Oslo accord was the diplomatic currency in which this price was denominated; the implementation of the self-governing Palestinian authority agreement is the price that Israel has finally paid. The currency is slightly devalued by the imbalances in the Oslo accord; but ancient traders such as Arabs and Israelis accept that the qualitative value of the deal and the promise of its future dividends are more important than the depreciated quantitative value of the currency itself.

Consequently — and the sequence here is important for Israelis and Jews to recognise — the Arab states are now prepared to enter into more dynamic negotiations with Israel that will finally shatter the psychological and political obstacles of the past. This round of peacemaking is succeeding where the Camp David talks and other initiatives failed because today we address Israeli and Arab needs on a more equitable, reciprocal basis, without subjecting the rights of Arabs to the exaggerated security and recognition obsessions of Israelis. The message of hope from the current negotiations is due to the greater diplomatic balance that underpins the talks — a balance that respects the rights of Arabs and Israelis to mutual security and sovereignty arrangements. Therefore, Israelis will not only step on Arab soil as they have done in Jordan this week; more

importantly, because they have come to terms with Palestinian and Arab rights, Israelis can step back into the larger Middle Eastern family of Semitic peoples that has always been enriched by the coexistence and interaction among Christians, Muslims and Jews.

The key to this breakthrough will be long debated by historians, though several causal factors are already clear in retrospect: The exhaustion and economic precariousness of both sides (Israel and Jordan are among, if not the, world's highest per capita debtors); and, recognition of the futility of warfare and military strength as a means to genuine stability, peace and coexistence with neighbours. It is glaringly obvious to all in this region that our pressing, sometimes existentially threatening, demographic and natural resource problems can only be addressed in a regional context. It is no accident, therefore, that the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks agenda is full of issues of regional cooperation, on water, transit, environmental protection, tourism promotion, energy generation and joint socio-economic development schemes in the Jordan Rift Valley and elsewhere.

This is not only in keeping with the exigencies of modern state, economic and demographic pressure; it is also an appropriate comment on how things should be within a single family. The relatively stable ancient Semitic family of Christians, Muslims and Jews in our region was torn asunder earlier this century by the grievous and deadly combination of the Zionist adventure, the post-1920 European fragmentation of the Arab region, the Holocaust, the dismemberment of Palestine, the disenfranchisement and diaspora of the Palestinians, the cold war, and the prevalence of autocratic Arab political

culture. We now pass through a moment that is truly historic because we witness the historical reassertion of the Semitic centre, in cultural and political terms — reasonable, self-confident Arab and Israeli leaders and people who can rid themselves of the fleeting constraints that were born in mid-century, and instead who reaffirm the more constructive legacy of inter-communal coexistence that has generally defined Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations for thousands of years. For this to happen, Israel must be formally accepted and validated by its Semitic brothers and sisters in this region, and not only by its friends and financiers on other continents.

The process of acceptance and validation must be mutually supportive to be convincing and lasting. This is the main difference between this round of peacemaking and all previous efforts. This round is not just about Arab recognition of Israel; it is about the collective and reciprocal rights and future opportunities of Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese and others who are interested to join in the process.

This is what the Washington handshakes are all about — not just making peace accords between states, but reviving an ancient and viable family that has been torn asunder by the (mainly European) stresses, fears and distortions of 20th century history. Jordan and Israel today do not merely express their willingness to coexist in peace at the end of a particularly hazardous century that has been problematic for all, but to rejuvenate a trans-national, inter-communal family dynamic that has been the only historical guarantor of peace, coexistence and progress for all for thousands of years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria schedules elections for Aug. 24

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has scheduled nationwide elections for parliament on Aug. 24, the Syrian Arab News Agency said Sunday. The vote for the Syrian People's Assembly following the expiry of its four-year term was announced in decree no. 62, signed Saturday by Mr. Assad, the state-run news agency said. Mr. Assad's ruling Socialist Baath Party is allocated half the assembly's 250 seats, while five allied parties grouped in the National Progressive Front get 30 seats. The rest are reserved for independents including merchants, businessmen and industrialists. The legislature's powers are basically limited to formally approving legislation and national budgets.

UAE court begins BCCI appeal hearings

ABU DHABI (AP) — Hearings began Sunday for 10 of 12 former executives of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) appealing their convictions of fraud and mismanagement in one of the world's biggest banking scandals. The hearings at the federal appeals court were ordered closed by Judge Abdul Wahab Abdool in response to a request from the prosecution. Journalists were then ordered to leave the courtroom. Public Prosecutor Mujahid Al Hoseri made the request arguing "it would be detrimental to national security and economic interest for the information to be discussed during this case to become public knowledge." After the brief hearing, Mr. Abdool scheduled the next session for Sept. 7. The court is hearing both criminal and civil aspects of the case.

Deri pleads innocent of bribery

TEL AVIV (AP) — A key former ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pleaded innocent Sunday of charges he accepted \$170,000 of bribes while serving as a cabinet minister. Israel Radio said. Arye Deri, head of the fervently religious Shas Party, admitted accepting tens of thousands of dollars but told a court the money was earmarked for various charities and educational funds, the radio said. Mr. Deri, who was interior minister under both the former right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir and under Mr. Rabin, was forced to resign last fall after waging a three-year battle against an array of corruption charges.

Kadhoumi meets U.S., Russian ambassadors

DAMASCUS (AP) — The head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Department said Sunday that he had met with the U.S. and Russian ambassadors in Damascus to discuss international aid to the PLO. Farouk Khaddoumi, who has been in Damascus since Thursday, also discussed the latest developments in the process towards peace in the Middle East. He said he and the Russian delegate discussed enhancing relations between Moscow and the Palestinians, but did not elaborate on his talks with the American. In addition to the envoys, Mr. Kaddoumi has met with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and other senior officials to discuss the issue of peace and Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Kaddoumi said he still had "reservations" about the Palestinian autonomy accord and did not trust Israel to satisfy Palestinian needs.

Tourist stabbed in Jerusalem, police say

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Two Palestinian youths stabbed an American woman tourist in Jerusalem's Old City on Saturday night, Israeli police said. The woman, aged about 30, was knifed in the back and taken to hospital in "moderate" condition, a police spokesman said. Police closed gates to the walled Old City in an attempt to catch the assailants, who fled.

Palestinian kills alleged collaborator

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian man shot dead an alleged collaborator with Israel in the occupied West Bank early Sunday, Palestinian sources said. The attacker pumped several bullets into Hosni Dib Odeh, 38, at point-blank range at the dead man's home just north of Tulkarm, after accusing him of "collaboration." The sources said the attacker made off with the victim's pistol.

1 dead, 5 wounded in Kabul rocket salvo

KABUL (AP) — A barrage of 10 to 12 rockets were fired into central Kabul early Sunday, striking the Foreign Ministry and adjacent government offices, with one civilian killed and five others seriously wounded, according to hospital sources. Security guards said four of the rockets, allegedly fired by Hezb-e-Islami fighters of opposition faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, exploded in the Foreign Ministry grounds causing "minor physical damage" but no human casualties.

Army says ceasefire in Sudan holding

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese army said on Sunday that it was observing a ceasefire which came into effect at midnight on Saturday and there were no reports of fighting between army troops and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir declared the ceasefire on Friday in response to an appeal by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, who heads a regional grouping currently mediating between Khartoum and the SPLA.

Kuwaitis told to seek Islamic state

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis should still campaign to create an Islamic state despite the failure of an attempt to enshrine Islam as the sole source of law, a Muslim fundamentalist magazine said on Sunday. "We urge national assembly deputies and all of the activists in popular political powers to continue efforts to achieve the rules of the Islamic teachings in the country by amending article two of the constitution or any other suitable way," an editorial in Al Mujtamaa weekly magazine said. Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah last week sent a letter to parliament saying that a constitutional change proposed by Islamist deputies to make Islam the sole source of law was unnecessary.

Boy vanishes in Cairo sewers

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian authorities face legal action after a young boy fell down an open drain in Cairo and vanished and an old man had a lucky escape. Al Wafd newspaper reported Sunday. The boy, Sayed Fares, fell down an unmarked, open drain last week as he walked with his mother through a residential area of Cairo. His body was swept away in the giant sewerage system which serves the capital's 15 million residents and has not been found since. On Saturday, Hild Bashir, in his 60s, fell down an open drain in another district of Cairo and was saved at the last minute by passers-by using a rope.

AIDS killed 82 in Iran — official

TEHRAN (R) — Eighty-two people have died of AIDS in Iran so far, newspapers reported here Sunday, quoting a health ministry official. Mohammad Azmudeh, director general of the ministry's contagious diseases department, said 283 people, including 35 women, were known to have been infected with the virus in Iran, of whom 100 had developed full-blown AIDS. He said 82 people, including seven women, had died of the disease.



Palestinian workers cross the Erez checkpoint on Sunday

Security tightened at Erez

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police have tightened security along the approach to the Israel-Gaza border to prevent a recurrence of violence in which two Palestinian workers were killed last week, witnesses said on Sunday.

Thousands of Palestinian labourers from Gaza crossed without incident into Israel on Sunday, the first working day in the week in the Jewish state.

On Friday, Israel lifted a five-day-old closure of the Erez border crossing imposed after workers frustrated by lengthy Israeli security checks attacked Israeli soldiers, a bus depot and a petrol station near the checkpoint.

An Israeli officer, identified by Israel radio only as Colonel Shaul, told reporters Palestinian police had agreed to set up new roadblocks "as we recommended."

He said they were deploying along the road leading to Erez and patrol adjacent citrus groves to prevent Palestinians without work permits from sneaking into Israel.

Witnesses said Palestinian police, in charge of security in the self-rule area of Gaza, made workers get out of buses and taxis and walk the last kilometre to the border.

Israel Radio said the measure was taken to ensure only small groups of workers reached the Israeli checkpoint at one time.

Col. Shaul said Israel was doubling the number of inspection lanes at Erez.

Last week's incident was the most serious outbreak of violence in Palestinian-controlled territory since Israel pulled out of Gaza and Jericho in late May.

More than 15,000 Arab labourers crossed Sunday into Israel, queuing for more than two hours.

"It's worse than before, and even then it was bad," said Khaled Radwan, a house painter who had to make it to Ashkelon, some 15 kilometres away.

"Today, the Palestinians first let those with permits through, and then the Israelis check us very slowly, one by one, and scrutinise single one of us."

On Friday, only 3,200 trickled through, out of the 20,000 who possess permits.

Sunday was the first full working day, and an estimated 17,500 went through by mid-morning, according to the U.N. figures. Israeli officials said more than 15,000 crossed over.

The strict measures kept away many who had no permits but who were previously able to slip through to find a job. Unemployment is running at 40 per cent on the Strip.

"There is peace now, why are they doing this?" asked Nayef Bakir, who has been trying to obtain a permit to enter Israel for two months.

"What should I do to feed my family? Why are they pushing us to extremes? If an Israeli soldier were to push me and send me back, I'd kill him."

Others were equally upset by the Palestinian police controls.

"This morning, our Arab brothers treated us like the Israelis do," said Hamdan Abu Adel, 50. "I'm really afraid the next days will get worse. We heard there is peace but we have not seen anything on the ground."

more pressing for Jordan as it became apparent that Palestinians had already moved ahead in their negotiations with Israel and that "there was movement on the Syrian track" as King Hussein noted in his press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

With the apparent failing of "Arab coordination" vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Jordan, analysts believe, had to move on its own track and reap the benefits that would result from new regional arrangements.

The King has put it very clearly in several statements he made before and after the announcement of his meeting with Mr. Rabin. "It is about time we paid attention to our country which is both threatened and besieged," the King said on July 16 in another meeting with army officers in the south of the country.

The need to position itself prominently in the area, therefore, appeared even

monies on the South Lawn of the White House at 11:40 a.m. (6:40 p.m. Jordan time).

At 12:40 (7:40 p.m. Jordan time) the U.S. president and the two leaders held another meeting over a working lunch at Blair House close to the White House.

The King and Queen Noor as well as Mr. and Mrs. Rabin will attend a White House dinner Monday night hosted by Mr. Clinton and Hillary Clinton.

The King and Mr. Rabin will address a joint session of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives at 11:00 (5 p.m. Jordan time) on Tuesday.

Popular Unity Party Talal Al Ramahi said: "Following the Wadi Araba meeting between Jordanian and Israeli officials, Jordan has entered a historical stage."

Mr. Ramahi said such developments should be viewed with careful optimism. He said Jordanian negotiators "will not abandon any iota of land, or any right."

He said normalisation of relations with Israel should not come before addressing all pending issues.

Secretary General of the

Hizbollah assails Israeli threats

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah said on Sunday it did not fear Israeli threats of retaliation for a bombing in Argentina that killed up to 100 Jews.

It vowed to continue its holy war against Israel.

"The enemy must understand that the stage of threats to crush skulls have long passed... this logic does not work with our people and our resistance anymore," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, said.

"With what is (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin threatening us? With death? ... Death is our habit and martyrdom is a gift from Allah," he said.

Sheikh Nasrallah, flanked by heavily-armed bodyguards, was speaking at a rally in Beirut to mark the first anniversary of a seven-day Israeli air, ground and sea bombardment of South Lebanon in which 150 people

— mostly civilians — were killed.

Israeli officials have vowed to avenge the July 18 bombing of Buenos Aires' main Jewish community centre. They say Hizbollah and its sponsor Tehran were behind the attack.

Some officials have said Israel would try to identify and annihilate all those involved.

A car-bomb was likely used in the Buenos Aires blast, Argentine authorities said Saturday.

Investigators said they believe the car-bomb's exterior was reinforced to direct its explosive force at the seven-storey Jewish Mutual Association building, said Buenos Aires Security Secretary Alberto Pionti.

The bomb contained more than 100 kilograms of a chemical explosive, said Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Doglioli, a defence analyst.

Washington works and how the Congress works? Do you think the Congress, for example, is sufficiently aware of the subtleties of international affairs?

A: My experience of Congress, and particularly in recent months, is that there is a growing understanding of Jordan's position and what it takes to make peace. But I think that in terms of addressing the American bureaucracies in the plural the problem of our country... is how to get the message across.

Q: Is Capitol Hill a huge beast that is very hard to get your lobbyists in and out of its quarters?

A: Well, I think it is difficult effectively in this age of new world order to feel that we are all constituents of Capitol Hill and I certainly would like to feel that there is greater democracy in foreign policy, and that is to understand that we have an agenda within the people that is to say the peoples and that countries of the region and to try to build a two-way dialogue.

Q: Did I understand that you said in the context of a new world order as it is today everybody has become constituents of Capitol Hill across the world?

A: Well, I think there is the feeling that "big brother" is increasingly influential and I think that there is the feeling that after the cold war — the United States is and will play a leadership role and what I am calling for is intellectual generosity on behalf of Capitol Hill to hear the other side of the story.

Q: There is a public perception that when the talks do not progress it is because the Palestinians are disorganised, that because the Jordanians are cautious that because the

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Fed threat of rate hike raises risks for economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan says he does not see much of a risk of the economy being damaged by a further rise in interest rates — but some private economists are not so sure.

They point to mounting signs that the economy is slowing — from falling housing starts to rising inventories — and worry that the Fed may go too far in its drive to stamp out inflation and snuff out growth instead.

"The risk is that the Fed will end up tightening excessively and slow the economy more than necessary to keep inflation in check," Bruce Steinberg, an economist at Wall Street broker Merrill Lynch and Co. said.

In testimony, to Congress last week, Mr. Greenspan left open the possibility the Fed might raise rates further and made clear he was far more concerned about fighting inflation than he was about supporting near-term economic growth.

"It is an open question whether our actions to date have been sufficient to head off inflationary pressures and thus maintain favourable trends in the economy," he said.

The central bank has already raised interest rates four times this year in a bid to prevent the economy from overheating and inflation

from stoking up.

Economists saw scattered signs that the Fed's medicine is working and some warned that further rate rises could prove over-kill.

Those signs included news last week that housing starts fell nearly 10 per cent in June and that unemployment claims jumped sharply in the middle of this month.

"The corner has already been turned," said Robert Davis, chief economist at the Savings and Community Bankers of America. "Further tightening runs the risk of precipitating a very significant decline" in growth and even an economic contraction, he added.

Mr. Davis said that the Fed's interest rate hikes had brought the growth in bank reserves and money supply — the fuel for future growth in spending — to a halt and, in some cases, even reversed it.

Stanley Dubinin, director of forecasting at National Association of Home Builders, said housing was one of the sectors that was particularly vulnerable if the Fed raised rates much further.

"We've got a serious problem," he said. "We could see a serious downturn."

Right now, though, that's not what the association foresees. It expects construction starts on single family homes to decline to 1.1 million next year from 1.165 million this

year. That's still a quite respectable showing.

But that forecast assumes that interest rates only rise a quarter percentage point more this year, before levelling off in 1995. Rates on 30-year mortgages are already two points above the lows set in October last year and currently stand at around 8 1/2 per cent.

In his congressional testimony last week, Mr. Greenspan gave no hint of how soon or how far he might increase interest rates, should he decide that was necessary.

But he made clear that, if anything, he was going to err on the side of tightening credit too much, arguing that the economy remains robust.

Government statistics due out Friday are expected to show that the economy expanded by some four per cent in the second quarter, after growing by 3.4 per cent in the first three months of the year.

On the face of it, those statistics should buttress Mr. Greenspan's view of the economy.

But some analysts believe the data will contain the seeds of future economic weakness because much of the improvement in growth will stem from an unwanted build-up in inventories that will have to be worked off in the months ahead.

And that's what has them worried.

International Chamber of Commerce sees high economic potential for Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) intends to play a strong role in developing the business potential of the Middle East in an era of peace and sees Jordan as a gateway to the region, a senior official of the Paris-based organisation said Sunday.

Jean-Charles Rouher of France, secretary-general of the ICC, was addressing a press conference winding up discussions here with the local chapter of the ICC headed by Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan on Sunday meets with International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Secretary-General Jean-Charles Rouher (centre) and ICC local chapter head Mohammad Asfour (Petra photo)

Mr. Rouher said his visit to Jordan was aimed at putting forward "points of view in relation to what is happening in the region and what is the role of the ICC."

"We have a lot of issues to review and a very significant evolution of events to watch and draw conclusions from," Mr. Rouher said, referring to the progress in the 33-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and the effects peace would have on the region's economy.

"Depending on the smoothness of the (peace) process, this country (Jordan) could join forces with the business community in the neighbouring countries," Mr. Rouher said. This, he said, "will help increase investments and normal ways of trading to the prosperity of the country."

For its part, the ICC will make an effort to inform its members — private sector firms in 138 countries — of the opportunities available in Jordan, said Mr. Rouher.

who was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan on Sunday.

The secretary-general of the ICC in Paris is "establishing closer relations" with its chapters in the Middle East and elsewhere in the Arab World with a view to ascertaining what it could do to promote business in the region, once Arab-Israeli peace is established, Mr. Rouher said.

In a peaceful Middle East, when trade barriers are lifted with Israel, there are fears that the Jewish state might dominate the area in trade. But to Mr. Rouher, Mr. Asfour and Tawfiq Kawar, a leading shipping agent and businessman, the worries were unfounded.

Mr. Rouher pointed out that that compared with Israel labour costs in Jordan were much cheaper, giving the Kingdom a natural edge in every sphere of industry and production where the two countries are likely to compete.

"In addition, Jordan has already reached a good level in terms of services in this part of the world — shipping services, financial services, and trade services," Mr. Rouher said.

"I am not really worried about Israeli products being dumped on us, drowning our market," said Mr. Asfour. "We are just as competitive as they (Israel) are, if not better."

"Maybe they are ahead of us in certain industrial technology," he said. "However, I feel that we would have the advantage in promoting our industries because we have cheap labour and good laws that govern our national industry."

Mr. Kawar pointed out that Israeli industries and technology were oriented towards the Western market, and as such they do not pose any threat to Jordan. In the context of agricultural products, the cost of production in Israel is high and again the products are geared towards meeting European needs, he pointed out.

"There might be some kind of electrical equipment, technical equipment, hospital equipment" that Israel might be interested in exporting to the Arab World, Mr. Kawar said. "But then, they have to compete with Taiwan, with Singapore, with Hong Kong."

Mr. Rouher described the Jordan chapter — a national committee — of the ICC as very active. The Kingdom is a member of several commissions of the ICC.

The International Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1919 with the aim of serving world business, by promoting trade and investment, open markets for goods and services, and the free flow of capital.

The original nucleus, representing the private sectors of Belgium, Britain, France, Italy and the United States, has expanded to become a world business organisation with thousands of member companies and associations in more than 130 countries.

Members include many of the world's biggest companies and represent every major industrial and service sector.

The ICC represents businesses to governments and intergovernmental organisations.

On the eve of every summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations for example, the ICC president heads a business delegation to the host head of government to present business recommendations to the world's leading economic powers.

The ICC keeps in touch with members all over the world through its conferences and triennial congresses — the most recent in Mexico in October 1993. As a member-driven organisation, with national committees in 60 countries, it has adapted its structure to meet the changing needs of business. Many of them are practical services, like the ICC International Court of Arbitration, which is the longest established ICC institution. The court is the world's leading body for resolving international commercial disputes by arbitration. At the beginning of 1994, some 750 arbitrations were in progress, involving amounts in dispute exceeding \$20 billion.

The ICC has set up three London-based services to combat commercial crime — the international Maritime Bureau, dealing with all types of maritime crime; the Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, and the Commercial Crime Bureau. To coordinate the work of the three bureaux, an umbrella organisation, ICC Commercial Crime Services, was established at the beginning of 1994.

Another recent ICC initiative is the World Industry Council for the Environment (WICE), an autonomous body set up after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Its main task is to make sure that governments take full account of business recommendations as decisions taken at the Earth Summit are translated into legislative action. Membership includes 88 of the world's biggest companies.

Mixed signals on Russia's reform

MOSCOW (R) — The prospects for Russia's economic reforms are mixed as parliament heads for its summer break, with hardliners determined to fight in court against a presidential decree to advance privatisation.

Parliament, dominated by conservatives and communists, rejected the government's draft privatisation law last week but President Boris Yeltsin rode roughshod over the parliamentary delays and signed a decree ordering the government to go ahead anyway.

Just before the recess the assembly also approved plans to compensate savers whose rouble deposits have been wiped out by soaring prices and negative real interest rates over the last two years.

Reformers fear that measure could pump prices again just as Mr. Yeltsin's government appears to be winning the battle against inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree, issued Friday, sets out procedures for selling state property after the July 1 expiry of privatisation vouchers distributed free of charge last year.

The second stage of the scheme introduces cash auctions to replace the old method of swapping shares in state-owned firms for the privatisation vouchers.

Government officials hope the second stage will bring in billions of roubles (billions of dollars) — a welcome filip to a country struggling to keep the 1994 budget deficit under 10 per cent of gross domestic product.

The decree says revenue from first-stage privatisation will be free of tax and orders regions to follow rules set by the centre.

Reformers had failed five times to muster the parliamentary majority needed to turn the privatisation plans into law.

Opponents of the plan, who include communists, agrarians and extreme nationalists holding a majority in the state Duma, or lower house of parliament, said the draft law did not meet Russia's interests. Some said it would open up the country to speculators and criminals.

The communists have said they will challenge in the constitutional court Mr. Yeltsin's privatisation decree. They called on Russians to "set up a wide resistance front to oppose the sell-off of state and municipal enterprises."

Russia began its economic reforms in 1992, freeing prices and starting to transfer state property to private

hands.

Some 40 million Russians already own shares through a sell-off which officials describe as the most successful element of the country's painful economic transformation.

Parliament played its own card in the battle against Mr. Yeltsin's policies Friday, pledging compensation for people whose savings had been whittled away by inflation in the two and a half years since reform began.

Deputies approved the first reading of a law which would index savings deposits to January 1992 levels, although the money can only be used for government promissory notes.

Russia has struggled to rein in inflation, which fell to a monthly 4.8 per cent last month, from 22 per cent in January.

Former reform chief Yegor Gaidar Saturday predicted an upturn in inflation, saying this was the lowest level to which it would fall this year. "This is the lowest level we can foresee provided the population does not change its monetary behaviour significantly, which would be too much to expect," Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Gaidar as saying.

Kuwait tax plan sure to arouse opposition

KUWAIT (R) — Outraged Kuwaiti legislators are likely to shoot down a government proposal to impose income tax to curb a growing budget deficit but may agree to raise fees for welfare state services, economists said Sunday.

Wide-ranging reforms proposed at the weekend, including the imposition of company tax on Kuwaiti firms, won a varied response from members of parliament, businessmen and civil servants long used to an all-providing nanny state funded by oil exports.

The economists said some changes might pass the opposition-dominated chamber because of emerging consensus on the need to curb a deficit equivalent to one fifth of national wealth.

But the chamber was likely

to demand cuts in state spending, especially of the large defence and land purchase budgets, in return for any agreement on taxes or service fees, they said.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan submitted a statement to parliament Saturday that contained the proposals for raising more state revenue by levying income tax or imposing fees for services currently free of charge.

The plan would make Kuwait the first of the oil-exporting Gulf Arab emirates to impose income tax.

A Kuwaiti businessman said he would accept taxation as long as Kuwait retained its parliamentary democracy.

"It (the welfare state) can't go on like it is used to," he said. "We are going through hard times. I'll go for it as long as it is fair and as long as I have

representation. There must be no taxation without representation."

"Before you go to the citizen and ask him to sacrifice you ought to convince him that all areas of extravagance in government expenditure have been stopped," former finance minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, said last week.

"Had the deficit problem been caused by a lack in revenue that would have been a major reason for imposing fees. But the basic reason for the deficit problem is the unwise expenditure by public institutions," he said.

Sheikh Rodhan also plans to start imposing company tax on local firms and a sales tax on services and wants to impose custom levies on more types of imports.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid calling on a difficult person early in the day and be alert to carelessness on the part of others who have a history of making wrong choices. Strive to become more successful in the P.M.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some fine creative ideas which need expression at this time. Try to be more thoughtful of relatives and how they feel at this time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Discuss your ambitions with family members and get their support for attaining them. Try to be more patient with your close associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day to study personal aspects of your life and figure out the best way to improve them. Consult with experts on a new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take time to study your monetary situation and know where to make the right changes for the future and you will be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Talk with associates and come to a better understanding for the future. Show more devotion to close ties in the evening and you will have a great time, together.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Concentrate on how best to handle important career matters and seek the help of experts. Keep busy and accomplish more in your endeavours.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Figure out a practical way which could give you added income in the future. Go after a personal aim and gain it for you truly desire it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Know where you are headed vocationally and you can become more successful. Show more interest in outside activities which you enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day when you are inspired to gain your wishes and can make your dreams come true. Be charming with others and you have great success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Rid yourself of unwanted obligations and you feel freer, happier. Obtain data you need from the right sources for an important project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to talk over with associates ways to be more productive in the future. Take no risks with your health in any form.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make the right improvements to surroundings and have more efficiency there. Strive for increased happiness with whatever is your desire.

THE BETTER HALF

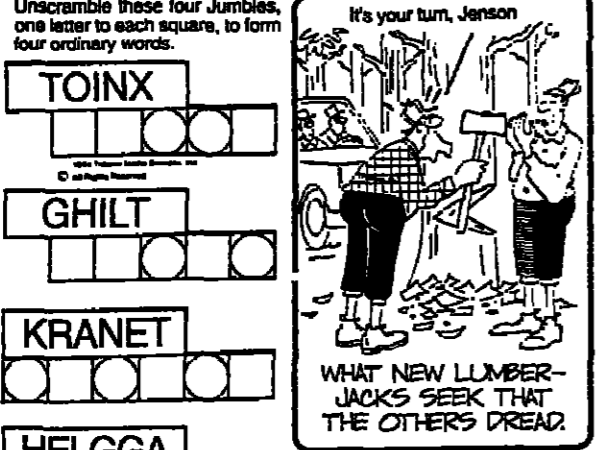
By Glasbergen



"Stanley never congratulated me on my raise! He was too busy ordering new stuff on the phone!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: _____ THE _____

Yesterday's Jumble: FEWER SUITE EYELET PALLID
Answer: What the summons for jury duty is considered — THE LETTER OF THE LAW

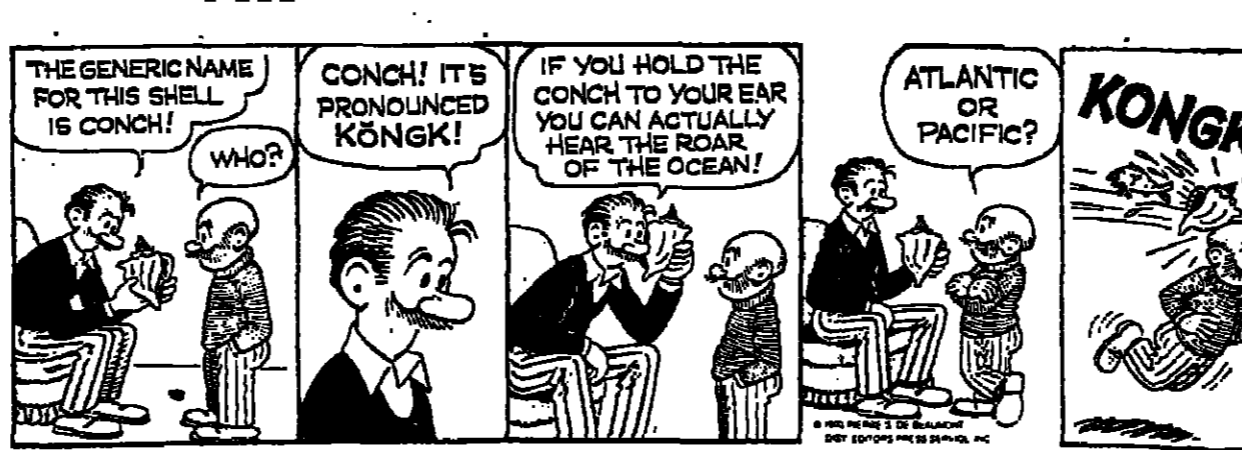
Peanuts



Andy Capp

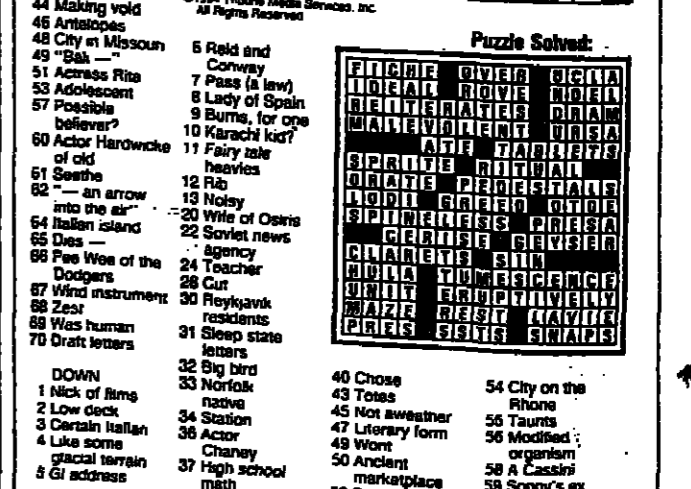
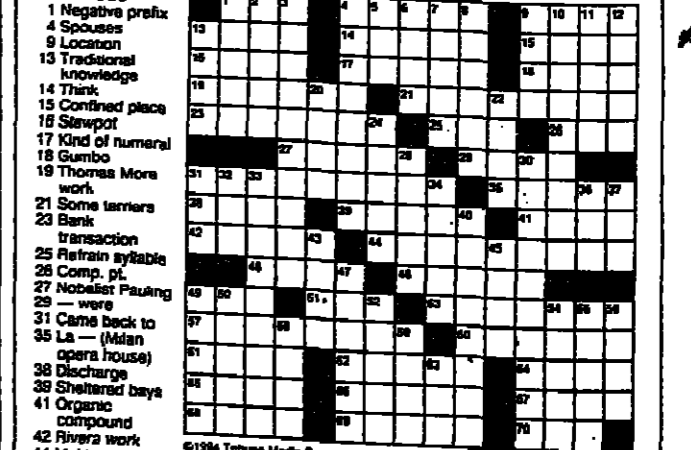


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword

by Ronald C. Hirschfeld



Chinese sweep aside Goodwill Games pool row

ST PETERSBURG (R) — China's women imperiously swept aside controversy over a murky pool to dominate the opening swimming events of the multinational 16-day Goodwill Games Sunday and take four gold medals.

The United States, spearheaded by 200 metres butterfly winner Mel Stewart, took three golds and Russia two, including one for double Olympic gold medalist Alexander Popov in the 50 metres freestyle.

But times were mediocre as most of the swimmers complained about poor visibility in the cloudy water and the Swedish team, including leading freestylers Tommy Werner and Anders Holmertz, pulled out at the last minute.

China's women were complaining least. Despite fielding what coach Wen Xinlong described as a third-string team which would not go to September's world championships, they extended the recent domination which has set their rivals quaking.

Ren Xin, Hong Shu and Bai Xiyu won the 100 metres breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke respectively.

They then combined with Kang Li to take the 4x100 medley relay by almost three seconds from a United States team featuring 100 metres freestyle world champion Nicole Haislett and Angel Martino, ninth fastest American ever at 100 metres butterfly.

Wen, who has had to face accusations that the sudden rise of the Chinese women is due to illicit drug use, brushed aside such suggestions and said his swimmers simply had a superior technique.

"I saw some of the best swimmers in the world here (from other countries) but their technique was not always very good," he told a news conference.

Mel Stewart of the U.S. became the first person to win three successive Goodwill Games titles, powering away from Russia's reigning European champion Denis Pankratov to win the men's 200 metres butterfly in 1:58.46, well outside his own world record of 1:55.69.

The Olympic and world champion said he had been feeling the effects of nagging tonsillitis which could keep him out.



German Bayern Munich's Michael Sternhoff (right) moves in on Brazilian Flamengo's tournament final Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. Marcos Adriano as the midfielder clears the Flamengo won 3-1 (AFP photo)

Yankees exec. resigns over remarks dispute

NEW YORK (AP) — Embattled New York Yankees executive Richard Kraft, heavily criticised the past week after referring to black youths as "monkeys" in a magazine interview, announced his resignation Saturday.

"I've made up my mind to resign," Kraft said in a statement issued by the U.S. Major League baseball club. "It's my personal decision. It's the right thing to do for my health and for the Yankees."

Kraft, who has denied making the racially charged statements, did not address the comments in his three-sentence statement. Stress over the article aggravated Kraft's heart condition, which was a factor in his decision, the Yankees said.

He stepped down from his job as vice president for community relations just hours

after dozens of protesters from the National Rainbow Coalition marched outside Yankee Stadium carrying signs that read, "We're not monkeys, we're people."

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who led the protest, said the resignation was a direct result of the pressure brought against the Yankees by minority groups.

"I don't think Mr. Kraft's health went bad in the last few minutes," said Sharpton. "I think the Yankees' health went bad when they saw scores of people marching in the rain who would keep coming back."

The protest was held outside an empty stadium.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, a friend of Kraft's for the last four decades, defended his associate in accepting the resignation.

"Anyone who knows him must find it hard to believe

that the remarks attributed to him were made," said Steinbrenner, whose request for copies of the interview notes was turned down by New York Magazine.

Magazine editor Kurt Andersen has said repeatedly that New York stands behind its story.

Kraft is quoted in the current issue as referring to black youths as "monkeys" and "coloured." Steinbrenner critics charged the comments were proof that the Yankees owner's bid to move the Yankees out of the Bronx was racially motivated.

Steinbrenner is scheduled to meet with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of the Rainbow Coalition, at a time and place still undetermined. Jackson had called for Kraft's ouster over the comments.

Kraft was replaced by Brian Smith, who had served as his assistant.

Atlanta worries about fans, athletes in scorching summer temperatures

ATLANTA (AP) — Scorching summer temperatures are nothing new to Atlantans, but Olympic athletes and spectators from more temperate parts of the world may have trouble beating the heat in 1996.

The heat tolerance of spectators is of particular concern to Olympic officials, because they won't be under the watchful eyes of coaches, like the athletes.

Providing free beverages, even water, could be a problem for officials because sponsors such as the Coca-Cola Co. and Anheuser-Busch hold the rights to provide soft drinks and beer at the Olympic Games.

"We're not trying to interfere with ACOG (Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games)," said Susan Pease Langford, the city's director of Olympic coordination. "You'd be interfering with all the businesses that want to sell their products."

For now, neither the local health department nor private organisations such as the American Red Cross has plans to distribute free water to tourists.

Temperatures are expected

to hover in the mid to high-90 degrees Fahrenheit (about 37-41 Celsius) about 10 degrees hotter than 1992's Barcelona Olympics.

International Olympic officials, however, have a different picture of summertime in Atlanta.

"The Atlanta bid committee said the average temperature during the proposed dates for the Olympics was 78 degrees Fahrenheit (26 Celsius)," said Dick Pound, chairman of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) coordination commission for the Atlanta Games.

Pound and other officials had been doubtful of the figures ACOG gave based on a 10-year survey by the National Weather Service.

"I guess that's Atlanta's dirty little secret," Pound has said.

Many people already know that sunburn, heat stroke and heat exhaustion can come easily at temperatures in the high 90s Fahrenheit (40-41 Celsius). But what may not be well known, especially to Europeans and northerners, is that the same problems can happen at lower temperatures if there's high humidity.

In high relative humidity, the human body does not cool easily or quickly through sweating because the air is already saturated with moisture. Atlanta's humidity can also reach the 90 per cent level in summer.

ACOG is working with experts on heat disorders and doctors experienced in dealing with heat and crowds in Atlanta, such as the Peachtree Road Race.

High heat and humidity were a concern during the recently completed World Cup, where on field temperatures reached 120 degrees Fahrenheit (62 Celsius).

Orlando, Florida, which is south of Atlanta and has a similar notorious reputation for a searing summer climate, was considered the worst for heat at the World Cup along with another of the nine venues — Dallas.

There were few reported problems for fans. At nearly every venue, "cool tents" were erected for fans in the parking lots. The centre had misting cool water released with large fans blowing it to comfort fans.

Majerle tries to purge memory of '88 Olympics

CHICAGO (AP) — Dan Majerle's last experience with international basketball is one that still defies explanation. How could a team with the likes of David Robinson, Danny Manning and Mitch Richmond fail to win?

"Nothing that happens will ever vindicate not winning the gold medal," said Majerle, the leading scorer on that 1988 U.S. Olympic team that was beaten by the Soviet Union and had to settle for a bronze, not a gold medal.

"That was such a special team with Robinson and Manning. I thought we had a good enough team to win."

Majerle said of a team laden with future NBA players. Two years later, the U.S. lost in the 1990 World Championships with another team of college players. The makeup of the teams would change, however, because of a vote by the International Basketball Federation world congress in 1989 that allowed open competition in international play.

Thus, NBA players were given the go-ahead to play in the Olympics and world championships.

The Dream Team rolled

through eight games, winning by an average of 44 points en route to a gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and Dream Team II is expected to do the same in the World Championships next month.

But for Majerle, the 1988 Olympics were a lesson he's never forgotten.

"The fact we supposedly have the best players in the world, means we can't let down, because you can still lose even though you have the best team," said the Phoenix Suns' guard-forward.

With the proper training, he said, he could get down to 235 or 245 pounds (106.5-111 kilograms). After all, he said he weighed 300 pounds (136 kilograms) before beginning training for the Holyfield fight. He was at 280 pounds (127 kilograms) when he went to Las Vegas a month before the fight and said he trained hard to get to the 247 pounds (112 kilograms) he weighed for the fight. He weighed 232 pounds (105 kilograms) against Tyson.

Boxing remains a part of him. He still watches bouts on TV and measures himself against the fighters.

He also oversees the foundation he founded and named for his mother. He has named a community centre in Columbus in her honour, and is planning other development in the city.

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Spain beat U.S., retain Fed Cup

FRANKFURT (R) — Champions Spain retained their Federation Cup women's team tennis title Sunday by cruising to a 2-0 lead over second seeds the United States.

Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez set Spain en route to victory with a swift 6-2 6-2 win over Mary Joe Fernandez in the opening singles.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the French Open winner and current world number two, followed with an equally convincing 6-2 6-1 demolition of Lindsay Davenport, with only the

doubles left. Spain have now won the competition three times, first in 1991 and then again last year.

Under a searing sun and in sweltering heat that topped 30 degrees Celsius, the Spaniards routed their rivals.

Martinez, who suffered a shock defeat by Germany's Sabine Hack in the singles in Saturday's semifinals, took just 62 minutes to sweep aside Fernandez.

Sanchez Vicario eliminated Davenport even more quickly.

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ins, athletes
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tures if there's high humidity
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cool easily or quickly through
sweating because the air is
already saturated with moisture.
Atlanta's humidity level is also
reach the 90 per cent level in
summer.

ACOG is working with a
pets on heat disorders as
doctors experienced in dealing
with heat and crowd
Atlanta, such as the Post
tree Road Race.

High heat and humidity
were a concern during a
recently completed World
Cup, where on field tempera-
tures reached 120 degrees
Fahrenheit (42 Celsius).

Orlando, Florida, which is
south of Atlanta and has
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for a scorching summer climate,
was considered the worst place
heat at the World Cup along
with another of the venues — Dallas.

There were few reports
problems for fans. At nearly
every venue, "cool time"
were erected for fans in the
parking lots. The centre has
mist cooling water released
with large fans blowing a
comfort fans

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James 'Buster' Douglas

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he went to Las Vegas
month before the fight and
said he trained hard to get
the 245 pounds (111 kilo-
grammes) he weighed for the
fight. He weighed 252 pounds
(114 kilograms) again
Tyson.

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Karim Atalla, Karim Ayoubi, Omar Asar,
Salim Baidoun, Mahammad Darwish, Zaid
Haj Hassan, Haziin Hindash, Raja Khouri,
Said Kurdi, Tahir Naber, Omar Saleh,
Samer Shariha and coaches Alonzo Fugham
and Henry Francis, Sunday poses after practice
at the American School sports field. The
team of 11 and 12-year-olds will represent
Jordan at the European Little League baseball



Berasategui overcomes heat to win Stuttgart Open title

STUTTGART, Germany
(AP) — Spain's Alberto Berasategui overcame searing
heat Sunday to oust Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi 7-5,
6-3, 7-6, (7-5) and capture his
third career title at the \$1.04
million Mercedes Cup.

Berasategui, the French
Open finalist, relied on his
morthodox forehand to win
the big points against
Gaudenzi, who was playing
in his first final of a major
tournament.

The fourth-seeded Berasategui rallied from 2-4
down in the third-set tie-
breaker, helped by Gaudenzi's

mistake of allowing a passing
shot to go by that landed
inside the court.

Both men pressed the
attack, trying to end points
early in the heat where
temperatures on court were
recorded at 120 degrees
Fahrenheit (49 degrees Cel-
sius).

"I thought if I lose this set,
I'm very tired. But I thought
Gaudenzi wasn't much better
off," Berasategui said.

Berasategui, now ranked
14th in the world, will crack
the top 10 with the title.
Ranked 91st at this time last
year, he reached eight
day court finals within 11
months.

Gaudenzi, another player
on the rise, tried to attack
Berasategui's backhand, but
the Spaniard counterpunched
by spraying forward winners
all over the court. He finally
closed out the match in one
hour and 58 minutes when
Gaudenzi's forehand sailed
long.

"That's my tactic," said
Berasategui. "I walk around
my backhand and hit my
forehand as hard as I can."
Berasategui won the first
set when he anticipated
another serve by the Italian
to his backhand, then sent it
flying down the line at set
point to win 7-5.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you
hold:
♠A K J 10 ♣Q 7 ♠K 5 2
Your right-hand opponent opens
the bidding with one club. What
action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you
hold:
♠A K J 10 ♣Q 7 ♠K 5 2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 7
What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you
hold:
♠A K J 10 ♣Q 7 ♠K 5 2
Do you open the bidding and, if so,
in which suit?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South
you hold:
♠A K J 10 ♣Q 7 ♠K 5 2
Your right-hand opponent opens
with an artificial game-forcing bid
of two clubs. What action do you
take?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as
South you hold:
♠A K J 10 ♣Q 7 ♠K 5 2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
Pass Pass 1 ♣ 1 ♣
What do you bid now?

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as
South you hold:
♠A K J 10 ♣Q 7 ♠K 5 2
Your right-hand opponent opens
the bidding with one diamond.
What action do you take?
Look for answers on Monday.

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Schwantz defies pain to win in style

DONINGTON, England
(AFP) — Brilliant Texan
Kevin Schwantz kept his
world championship hopes
alive by winning Sunday's
British 500cc Motorcycle
Grand Prix here in magnifi-
cent fashion.

The 30-year-old Schwantz
had been a doubtful starter
after a spectacular crash in
qualifying when he narrowly
escaped serious injury.

But after falling back from
second on the grid to sixth,
he clawed his way through
the field on his Suzuki.

On the 19th lap, riding
with a cast on the left wrist he
broke in the Netherlands last
month, he swept round the
outside of Australian Michael
Doochan to take a lead he
never lost.

Schwantz celebrated his
triumph — his fourth at
Donington after wins in 1989,
1990 and 1991 — by riding up
the finishing straight on one
wheel, raising clenched fists
and parading the Stars and
Stripes on his lap of honour.

Doochan's second place,
the 10th time in 10 races this
season that he has been in the
first three, keeps him 71
points clear of Schwantz with
four rounds to go.

As the tyres on Luca Cade-
lora's Yamaha began to go
off he was forced to drop
back, finishing more than
three seconds behind Doochan
in third.

American John Kocinski
was fourth on his Cagiva,
ahead of teammate and fel-
low American Doug Chandler,
with Alex Criville of
Spain sixth on his Honda.

Italian Loris Capirossi won
the 250cc Grand Prix to leap
to the head of the world
championship standings.

Indurain wins 4th consecutive Tour de France title, joins the greats

PARIS (AFP) — Spaniard
Miguel Indurain confirmed
his status as one of cycling's
greats here Sunday by cru-
ising to his fourth Tour de
France triumph in a row —
and by far the most important
victory of his career.

For Indurain's 1994 victory
not only made a nonsense of
all the experts' predictions, it
also proved one and for all
the breadth of the 30-year-
old's talent, who only a year
earlier had been branded a
"bore" and a "robot" rider.

Statistically, the win puts
him almost on a par with the
legendary Jacques Anquetil
of France and Eddie Merckx
of Belgium, who both won
four Tour de France titles in a row.
Anquetil between 1961-1964
and Merckx between 1969-
1972, on their way to career
totals of five French crowns.
A record equalled by French-
man Hinault.

More importantly, howev-
er, Indurain won this year's
race with real panache.

He was joined on the po-
dium by Russian Piotr Ugrumov,
second and Marco Pantani
of Italy.

Frenchman Eddy Seigneur
took the final stage, crossing
the line in a sprint finish
ahead of Frankie Andreu of
the United States, after a
five-man breakaway on the
Champs Elysees.

The critics had lashed In-
durain for basing his 1992 and
1993 successes on time trial
wins followed by defensive,
safety-first riding in the
mountains, where, barnacle-
like, he latched himself onto
the wheels of his major rivals
and refused to budge.

This year, however, In-
durain first smashed Tony
Rominger and Co. in the
opening 64km time trial on
the flat — then murdered
them in the mountains.

The mental and physical
torque proved so severe that
Swiss rival Rominger, the ex-
pert's favourite at the start in
Lille but dogged with gastro-
enteritis, had already aban-
doned just after the halfway
stage.

His bitter parting shot
could have come from former
podium finisher Claudio Chiappucci,
former triple winner Greg LeMond,
ex-double world champion
Gianni Bugno or reigning
champion Lance Armstrong
— all of whom had bowed
out by 14 of the event's 21
stages.

"It is the worst day of my
career. Indurain is unbeat-
able," cursed Rominger.

The 33-year-old, buoyed
on by a hat-trick of wins in
the Tour of Spain as well as
Indurain's early season prob-
lems — a pollen allergy and
knee injury undermined his
bid to win a third tour of Italy
in a row — had based the
entire season on his French
campaign.

He had even toppled the
Spaniard as the world num-
ber one just before the start
— only to be ground into the
dirt in the mountains, theoret-
ically his strongest discipline
and where he was favoured to
outperform Indurain.

The 11th stage in the
Pyrenees proved the turning
point.

Just two days after taking
two minutes off Rominger in
the time trial — and over five
off British specialist and
reigning Olympic pursuit
champion Chris Boardman
— Indurain more than dou-
bled that overall lead in the
climb to Lourdes.

Spurred into action by It-
alian climber Marco Pantani,
who came second to Indurain's
third in the Giro, he ruthles-
sly attacked after spotting
Rominger in trouble up the
1,560-metre climb.



Miguel Indurain

He repeated the move the
next day, allowing French-
man Richard Virenque to win
the stage by a massive margin
but again taking three min-
utes off the despairing
Rominger on the way to Luz
Ardiden.

Indurain won neither the
11th or 12th stage but his
superb tactics had all but
guaranteed overall victory.
Rominger quit the race the
next day — on Indurain's
birthday.

By then, only a crash or
illness could change the
course of the tour and the
man from Navarre had a
close shave on the 15th stage
while hurtling down Mont

Ventoux, the tragic landmark
that saw the death of British
rider Tom Simpson in 1967.

The leader lost his back
wheel on a hairpin bend and
came to within inches of
crashing off the road and
down the mountain side as he
fought to regain control of his
bike.

That miss, however,
proved as good as a mile. Or
as good as the 2,480 miles
that it took Indurain to cycle,
into history.

Russian Piotr Ugrumov
produced a late flurry to slash
the yellow jersey's lead but
even then Indurain, the mas-
ter tactician, seemed in total
control.

After hoopla, Simpson case comes down to science

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Af-
ter all the out-of-court hoopla
over a reward, a hot line and
accusations of planted evi-
dence, the O.J. Simpson case
is moving into the more staid
realm of forensic science.

The trial could turn into a
showcase for the reliability of
genetic fingerprinting, with
attention focused on a few
test tubes of blood in a
laboratory, and on the letters
DNA.

Can such tests really prove
whether a defendant is inno-
cent or guilty? Should science
send someone to the gas
chamber?

Some scientists call DNA
testing the greatest forensic
evidence breakthrough since
fingerprinting.

Others say it is subject to
laboratory errors and evi-
dence contamination and
cannot be trusted.

"This (case) will have a
tremendous impact on peo-
ple's perception of DNA evi-
dence," said Simon Ford, a
molecular biologist and pro-

fessor at the University of
California at Irvine.

Studies Ford has con-
ducted are quoted in a de-
fence motion arguing for
strict controls on DNA test-
ing of blood, hair and tissue
gathered at the scene of the
slayings of Nicole Brown
Simpson and Ronald Gold-
man, and from Simpson, who
is charged with their mur-
ders.

Specifically, the Simpson
camp wants prosecutors to
split the samples to allow
separate testing by defence
experts.

The issue will be argued
Monday in full view of a
national television audience.
The prosecution's testing was
expected to begin Tuesday at
Cellmark Diagnostics, a pri-
vate laboratory in German-
town, MD., used by law en-
forcement nationwide.

"There's absolutely no legal
authority in California for
forcing a split of samples,"
said Rock Harmon, senior
deputy district attorney in

Alameda County who has
used DNA evidence in
numerous cases.

He said prosecutors
oppose the split because they
risk losing too much of the
samples before the tests are
even begun.

But Ford and another au-
thority in the field, William
Thompson, said sample split-
ting and duplicate testing are
the only guarantee of reliable
results.

So-called DNA finger-
printing looks for unique
characteristics that consti-
tute each person's genetic
makeup. Laboratories ex-
tract DNA (deoxyribonucleic
acid) from such things as
skin, blood or hair found at a
crime scene and compare it
with samples from suspects
and victims.

Ford and Thompson are
part of a growing group of
experts who advocate rig-
orous testing controls in crim-
inal cases, including require-
ments for duplicate tests.

"Errors can be caught or

prevented when you do
duplicate testing," said
Thompson, also a professor
at University of California-
Irvine.

He noted that double-
checking of tests is routine in
other areas of science.

"Right now, we use more
stringent scientific methods
to diagnose strep throat than
we do to send someone to the
gas chamber," Thompson
said.

The first person executed
in the United States on the
basis of genetic fingerprinting
was Timothy W. Spencer, a
serial killer dubbed the
"Southside Strangler" who
was put to death in Virginia
in April.

Prosecutors said that with-
out DNA evidence collected
at the crime scenes, they never
would have been able to
convict Spencer in 1988 of
raping and murdering four
women.

Legal experts question
whether the early focus on
DNA evidence in the Simp-

son case tends to telegraph a
defence concern that blood,
hair and tissue samples would
tend to convict the defend-
ant, Thompson said just the
opposite seems true.

"If I were guilty I don't
think I would want duplicate
testing," said the professor,
whose specialty is science and
the courts. "I would sit back
and wait for the prosecution
laboratory results and then
argue that there was error in
the testing."

Ford said the possibility of
error and contamination is
real and has been a problem
in many cases.

Two of the lawyers re-
cruited by the defence to
handle the DNA motion have
challenged DNA evidence on
those grounds in other trials.

The two New York
lawyers, Barry Scheck, a pro-
fessor at Cardozo Law
School, and Peter Neufeld,
an expert in the DNA field,
have urged stricter regula-

tions on DNA testing and
have sought to exclude it as
evidence in many cases.

From a defence lawyer's
viewpoint, DNA testing can
be both a plus or a minus,
said attorney Harland Braun.

"If the results are inconsis-
tent (with Simpson's DNA),
they'll open the county jail
doors the next day (and let
him out)," Braun said. "But
if it's positive, it could be
devastating, unless you can
show there's something
wrong with the lab."

Another option exists,
noted Harmon: Simpson's
lawyers could be gambling
that the tests will prove posi-
tive not just for the victims'
blood or Simpson's blood but
for blood of another person.

"If a person is guilty, the
best they can hope for is
some stray piece of biological
evidence that injects a fourth
person into the case," said
Harmon. "Then, for the pur-
poses of the real killer, that be-
comes the real killer."

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| | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | | Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30 | | | | | | | |

Israeli acknowledgement of land most clear result of Wadi Araba talks

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

PROGRESS on Jordan's territorial rights was by far the most clear result of last week's Wadi Araba bilateral talks with Israel despite Israeli efforts to be little the issue, according to Abdullah Touqan, head of the Jordanian boundary commission to the talks.

Although some negotiators felt that Israelis were trying to "ignore the facts behind Jordan's territorial demands," Dr. Touqan told the Jordan Times that the conflict on borders was contained through Jordan's scientific and legal approach.

He added that the wording of the British mandate document defining Jordan's borders with Palestine were clear and did not warrant the argument.

The British mandate agreement between the United Kingdom and then Transjordan defines Palestine as "the area which lies to the west of a line drawn from a point two miles west of the town of Aqaba on the Gulf of that name up the centre of Wadi Araba, Dead Sea and River Jordan to its junction with the River Yarmouk; thence up the centre of that river to the Syrian frontier," making Transjordan the area east of that line.

Whereas the mandate of Transjordan was entrusted to the British as early as July 24, 1922, the agreement was only ratified in Jerusalem in February 1928.

One negotiator told the Jordan Times that although considerable progress had been achieved on the border track, the water issue still stands "in limbo."

Dr. Touqan said that the July 18-19 Wadi Araba negotiations resulted in signing an agreement on borders in which Israel restated its com-



Dr. Abdullah Touqan
commitment to accepting the British mandate document as the main frame of addressing territorial issues between the two countries.

The Wadi Araba talks were the first to be held in the region in a tent straddling common borders. The talks addressed water, border and security issues based on the common agenda signed in Washington on Sept. 14, 1993, and the sub-agendas on borders, security and territories signed June 7, 1994.

The Jordanian negotiations over borders, Dr. Touqan feels, have advanced a satisfactory distance towards solving the border problem, but it is a long and arduous trip and "this delicate issue" should be dealt with one stage at a time to ensure accuracy and gradual flow of events.

The "boundary work" will start with forming a joint technical team of experts (JTTE) to agree on "common understandable maps" that have to be compatible to Jordan's territorial rights, he said. The JTTE will also tackle other related issues like "boundary maintenance and administration" for which a commission has been set up to "maintain consistency on territorial issues after the peace negotiations culminate in a treaty of peace."

Only after demarcation and definition of international borders is completed, the security commission will enter into military and security arrangements on and around the areas of the international borders, Dr. Touqan asserted.

"To us in Jordan, borders are one of the most significant and important manifestations of territorial sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction," said Dr. Touqan, stressing that, as stipulated in the common agenda and sub-agendas, Jordan reinforces its rights of sovereignty over its land "without prejudice to any territories that came under Israeli rule in 1967."

"I do not discuss (with Israelis) anything to do with areas of the occupied West Bank or the Palestinian self-rule areas; what we discuss is purely a Jordanian-Israeli issue — it is Jordan's right as a sovereign state," he said.

Dr. Touqan affirmed that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty with Israel before reaching mutually satisfactory solutions on the borders and water rights.

"When we do reach a solution and an Israeli commitment to our rights, these will be incorporated into a peace treaty," Dr. Touqan affirmed.

On Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation, Dr. Touqan said that the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral committee and the Israeli-Jordanian-U.S. trilateral committee will be moving simultaneously on the definition and implementation of joint projects.

For practical and pragmatic reasons, development projects would be concentrated in the sector of Aqaba-Eilat to the Dead Sea area, "simply because most of the projects lie in that area which is the longest border we share," he said.



PATIENT WAIT: An Israeli soldier checks Israel closed it last week following violence. Palestinian workers' ID cards at the Erze (AFP photo) checkpoint on Sunday, the first full day after

Abequa killed wife 'without thinking'

By Tareq Ayyoub
The Associated Press

JUWEIDEH PRISON — A Jordanian accused of murdering his American wife in New Jersey said Sunday he was sorry he had killed her, but felt he had no alternative in order to retain the guardianship of their children.

Speaking to the Associated Press at this prison, 20 kilometres south of Amman, Mohammad Abequa dismissed an American request for his extradition and said he "preferred" to be tried by Jordanian courts.

Mr. Abequa, 46, a naturalised American citizen, is sought by U.S. authorities on charges of strangling his estranged wife, Nihal, 40, at her Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey, apartment and fleeing to Jordan with the couple's two children — Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3. Nihal Abequa's body was discovered on July 6.

On Saturday, police announced Mr. Abequa had confessed to the crime.

Mr. Abequa, a former mechanic with the Jordanian army who went to the United States in 1985, said he killed his wife on July 4 and fled with his children from Nashville, Tennessee, on July 6.

In a calm and composed tone, he recounted the events that led to the killing and his flight. The interview was conducted in English in the presence of prison officials in a well-furnished room near his cell, which he shares with 50 others.

The tall, lean man with a salt-and-pepper beard claimed his wife had been unfaithful to him, denied him the right to live with his children and sought a divorce.

"She wanted to raise the kids the way she liked," he said. "She rejected my requests to come to Jordan. She was f... around with her

boy friend. She didn't allow me to live with my kids. Therefore I killed her."

Mr. Abequa, who was wearing a neat pair of jeans, said he had lived in Nashville and worked as a mechanic after his wife kicked him out of their New Jersey apartment in March 1994. The children lived with their mother.

Speaking after he performed the Muslim noon prayer, he said he returned to New Jersey on July 4 to "negotiate with her our life, our problems in the family, how we raise the kids."

"She said she had to raise the kids by herself... She made me a cup of tea, put the kids to sleep and we continued our talk about our problem. I don't file for divorce because I'm Muslim. I have my kids and I want to raise them as Muslim," he said.

Mr. Abequa, who claimed he "did not drink, did not smoke," said he did not consider his wife, an American citizen of Turkish origin, a Muslim although she was born one.

"I told her we should save our kids... out of drugs, out of alcohol, and she said, 'you can see your kids once a month.' I said this is not the way I want it."

Mr. Abequa said his wife ordered him to leave and threatened to call police. She then tried to find out how much money he had and began pulling his wallet and checkbook from his pocket, precipitating a fight, he said.

"She started calling me bad names. I lost my temper. I pushed her down, without thinking I put my hand around her neck, then she lost her life," he said.

"I had no choice... I'm sorry for what happened because I tried to do my best to



Mohammad Abequa

stay together as one family as husband, wife and kids and she was the one who refused," said Mr. Abequa.

He said he hid her body under the bed before the children awoke.

He later went to Nashville, cleared his bank accounts and flew with the children to London on his Jordanian passport. He said his wife had hidden his American passport and he could not find it.

From London, Mr. Abequa and the children flew to Amsterdam and then Beirut, then landed in Amman on July 8.

He said he took his children sightseeing to the port of Aqaba, some 350 kilometres south of Amman, and other sites until July 15.

On that day, he left his children with one of his sisters and travelled overland to Iraq to borrow some money from friends there, he said.

He was arrested July 20 when at an Iraqi health centre for an obligatory AIDS test, he said. Iraqi embassy officials confirmed the account.

He was handed over to the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad and taken back to Amman by Jordanian security forces.

Mr. Abequa, whose left arm was in a cast, said during interrogation he was treated well and his confession was made without coercion.

He said he had broken his arm in a fall in Jordan.

Qouriea defends World Bank

ABU DIS (Agencies) — Financial problems facing the new self-rule authority cannot be blamed on the World Bank and donor countries, Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Qouriea said Sunday.

"The Palestinians are not the victims of any special mistrust," he said, distancing himself from other Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders, including Chairman Yasser Arafat, who have savaged the bank and donors.

"The procedures for the disbursement of aid promised by the international community are long throughout the world," he told the AFP in Abu Dis, his family's home village on the edge of Jerusalem.

Mr. Qouriea, known as Abu Alaa, was due later Sunday to hold his first meeting with Israel's Finance Minister Avraham Shohat since autonomy began and he returned home 10 days ago.

The two men negotiated the economic agreement incorporated in the overall accord which launched autonomy on May 4.

Mr. Qouriea stressed the need to "work out relations between the Palestinian authority and the donor countries to build up confidence."

The international community pledged \$720 million for autonomy this year. Only \$47.5 million have been advanced so far and Mr. Arafat has repeatedly accused the World Bank of renegeing on promises.

The bank and donors have demanded the Palestinians establish open accounting procedures before paying out more money.

Mr. Qouriea said he signed agreements with the World Bank three weeks ago for \$54 million to pay police and civil servants during July, August and September, \$150 million for emergency reconstruction projects and \$18 million for feasibility studies and training.

"For the last quarter, we will have to negotiate with the donor countries and the World Bank, which are hesitant about financing the current budget and prefer to finance the export of their goods and technology," he said.

The minister voiced hope that tenders for the first schemes to improve roads, water supplies and treatment plants would be out in the coming weeks.

"If the (\$150 million) agreement is applied by the end of the year, I believe the Palestinians will see real changes on the ground. If not the credibility of the peace process will be in danger," he warned.

But the minister stressed that the new authority would have to get down to work.

"We don't have a magic wand to wave to change everything from one day to the next," he admitted. "We are going to start collecting taxes in two weeks at most and we hope to raise \$350 million a year."

The annual autonomy budget should be around \$500 million with a planned deficit of \$150 million.

Mr. Qouriea rejected calls by Palestinian Finance Minister Mohammad Nashashibi for an immediate renegotiation of the economic accord with Israel.

"I speak in the name of the Palestinian leadership and not in the name of Mr. Arafat," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

COLUMN

Norway seizes second Greenpeace ship in three days

OSLO (AFP) — The Norwegian coast guard seized a Greenpeace vessel Saturday for interfering with a whale hunt in the second such detention in three days, the coast guard said.

The coast guard towed the ship, the Solo, towards the port of Egersund, 300 kilometres southwest of Oslo, where it was expected to arrive late Saturday to be turned over to police. The Solo will join Greenpeace's other arrested vessel, the Sirius, in Egersund. Police said the Solo was interfering with a whale hunt by a ship called the Senet, which has several times been the target of Greenpeace's anti-whaling efforts this season.

"Solo was arrested after the vessel illegally tried to interfere with a whale hunt," Commander Hans Kjeldsen said. Three coast guard officials boarded the Greenpeace vessel, and one of them was thrown overboard by the activists. Fourteen coast guard officials eventually boarded the Solo and took control. Norwegian authorities on Thursday confiscated the Sirius for an unspecified length of time after an incident July 20 between Norwegian whalers and Greenpeace. Both ships will likely remain in the hands of the Norwegian authorities until the end of the whaling season in mid-August, in order to allow the whalers to reach their quotas, police said.

Norway passed a law last week to protect whaling vessels, allowing fines to be inflicted on boats trying to prevent whaling by damaging equipment or merely manoeuvring, following two weeks of skirmishes. The Norwegian coast guard was also recently given increased police authority to protect whalers.

Former Premier Heath slams 'far right'

LONDON (AFP) — Former British premier Sir Edward Heath slammed "far right" ministers who escaped the chop and consolidated their grip on power in Prime Minister John Major's cabinet reshuffle last Wednesday. Writing in the populist weekly News of the World, Sir Edward criticised the "arrogance" and "ignorance" of some of the ministers. He was particularly critical of Home Secretary Michael Howard, whose reform of the legal system, the Criminal Justice Bill, has been delayed by fierce debate in the upper chamber, the House of Lords. Sir Heath also attacked two ministers who are shaping up to squeeze the welfare state still further, the new Employment Secretary Michael Portillo and Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley.

"Their extreme right-wing views sometimes lead one to wonder whether they have any compassion for or understanding of the electorate," he said. "Both believe that unemployment and social problems are all caused by the inherent lethargy of the individual citizens."

NASA's robot grounded by low clouds

MOUNT SPURR, Alaska (AP) — Low clouds prevented a U.S. Army helicopter from taking NASA's Dante II robot to the 3,355-metre summit of Mount Spurr, delaying an experiment at the active volcano for at least a day. Plans call for Dante to make topographic maps of a 366-metre deep crater at the volcano and send back a stream of data on air temperature and gases, such as hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide. The background data could aid in predicting a new eruption. The robot was taken half way up the mountain to a wilderness clearing on Saturday. The space agency said it would station two men to camp with the \$1.7 million robot overnight. NASA said late Saturday it would try to reach the peak again on Sunday or Monday. Scientists hope to send the spy robot down the volcano to test its abilities on rough terrain. They hope one day to use similar robots to map and probe extreme terrains and climates on other planets and moons.

Yemen says no foreign role in reconciliation

MUSCAT (Agencies) — The Yemeni government Sunday closed the door to foreign mediation in reconciliation talks with southern separatist leaders following their defeat in a two-month civil war.

"The situation in Yemen has been decided," Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Onsi told the Associated Press.

"Any talk will be... within the domestic framework. If there are to be any other talks will only be informal, nothing official."

He denied a French foreign ministry announcement that rival leaders will meet in Paris before the end of the month for talks led by U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

Mr. Onsi said that if Mr. Ibrahim had arranged anything "it would only be in his personal capacity and not as representative of the United Nations."

Throughout the war, which erupted May 7, the north tried to limit foreign involvement in the war, which it saw as granting legitimacy to the separatists.

Led by former Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, the separatists sought to secede from the embattled union of North Yemen and South Yemen, declared in 1990.

Mr. Beidh and several aides fled to Oman after the

war, while others went to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Onsi was part of a 40-member government delegation that came here seeking to rehabilitate Yemen's ties with Oman, whose tacit support for the south strained relations with the Sanaa government.

Mr. Onsi said Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos, "received us with open heart and showed all understanding."

He said the delegation was ready to meet with Mr. Beidh or any other exiled leader and had promised Sultan Qaboos that the safety of Mr. Beidh or any of his aides was guaranteed if they wished to return home from exile.

He said a post-war amnesty declared by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh "covers all citizens and the leaders in exile."

Mr. Saleh has made some conciliatory gestures to members of Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party, whom he needs to offset the growing power of fundamentalist and tribal leaders in the north.

Mr. Onsi said another aim of the visit is to urge an estimated 8,000 refugees gathered on this side of Yemen's border with Oman to return home.

The group is also expected to seek the repatriation of warplanes, warships and military vehicles which the southern leaders had taken

with them in flight.

Mr. Onsi also said that Sultan Qaboos had conveyed a message from Saudi King Fahd seeking to bury the strains in their relationship caused by Saudi Arabia's alleged support for the south.

According to Mr. Onsi, the king said "that Saudi Arabia wants to open a new page with Yemen after the tensions of the past two months."

In Aden, cholera has killed at least 28 people and made 300 sick in Aden, where shortages after the civil war have been made worse by looters who damaged pumping equipment, medical experts said.

A senior Aden doctor counted at least 28 deaths from the disease, which causes severe diarrhoea and dehydration.

"I think this is the tip of the iceberg," said another doctor, Khaled Al Qassem, at the Jumbouriya hospital.

Experts said there was no proof yet of water transmitting the disease, but lack of water can encourage its spread by making it more difficult to wash food and hands.

"At the moment we cannot make a direct link between the water supplies and the cholera," said Yves Dacord, delegation head for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Sceptical Jordanians watch for benefits of summit

By Jack Redden
Reuters

AMMAN — When King Hussein shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday, Jordanians at home will be watching for rewards for extending a recognition withheld throughout a 46-year state of war.

Expectations have been raised by a media campaign that has portrayed Israel as accepting Jordanian water and land claims and Washington guaranteeing to provide military aid and write off \$950 million in debts. None of the benefits is certain.

The government's need to show gains is understandable: In the space of

eight days, it has ignored the objections of Syria to its drive for peace and given Israel a series of long-sought concessions.

Peace talks were moved to the region last week, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres became the highest-ranking Israeli publicly received in Jordan and on Monday the summit opens in Washington. Jordan had refused all such gestures during the previous two-and-a-half years of peace talks.

"His Majesty voices pride in support of majority of people in quest to end decades of conflict," said a newspaper headline — a backhanded admission that many Jordanians are unconvinced.

After 46 years in which Jordan twice fought wars with Israel and was always in an official state of war, it is hard for Jordanians to reverse direction.

Many in the 4.2 million population — about half consider themselves refugees from land now occupied by Israel — still see Israel as an aggressive, expansionist state intent on denying their rights.

"We want peace but what is Israel offering us to feel there is peace? Where is the peace that everyone is talking about?" said Khalil Hindi, a shopkeeper in Aqaba near the site of last week's peace talks.

Jordan's small leftist parties and the powerful Islamic Action Front, a fun-

damentalist organisation that is a power in Parliament with wide support, among Jordan's poor, united on Saturday to declare the summit "a day of sadness and national mourning."

Suspicion of Israel was also apparent in questions to Israeli officials at last week's peace talks along their border by Jordanian journalists.

Repeatedly they asked if Israel was ready to return occupied land or acknowledge it was taking more than its share of water. Evasive replies were understandable in the midst of negotiations but did nothing to win over sceptics.

King Hussein knows there are doubts. After the

summit was announced, he was shown twice on television reassuring army officers who guard the border.

The King will want quick benefits to win over doubters. As one negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said before the summit: "I think Jordan has made a lot of steps toward peace, now it is the turn of Israel."

However, while Jordan has emphasised the need to solve old problems like land and water, Israel and the United States have promoted grand schemes that symbolise normal relations but might not appear until the next century, if ever.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher placed

a plan to develop the rift valley between the countries — site of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea — at the heart of the summit.

Details are to be revealed in Washington, but Jordanian sources say a series of projects are likely to be announced, financed through U.S., European and Japanese aid.

Benefits to Jordan could be immense — the projected Dead Sea-Red Sea canal alone could double drinking water for Jordanians now facing chronic shortages. But it is not guaranteed to happen.

Most such schemes cannot proceed without resolving water and border issues, where progress last week was uneven. Jorda-

July 25, 1994